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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk June 12, 2011 **MID & NORTH KENT EDITION** Issue no 455

Vulnerable pupils are most likely to suffer expulsion

EXCLUSIVE
by Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

CHILDREN suffering with learning difficulties are being "let down" by Kent schools judging by the worrying proportion of expelled pupils who have special educational needs (SEN).

Figures released under the Freedom of Information Act reveal that of 168 secondary school youngsters who were permanently excluded in the county last year, more than half had been assessed as needing close attention due to learning problems such as autism and dyslexia.

The situation is not much better at primary school level, with 13 of 35 expelled children in 2009-10 having statements of special educational need, meaning they require the most support of all such pupils.

Government policy says that schools should avoid expelling statemented pupils "other than in the most exceptional circumstances", but critics argue the guidance is frequently ignored.

Independent education adviser Peter Read, who provided KoS with the figures, said education chiefs should be doing more to ensure the most vulnerable children are allowed to stay in school.

"Most of the schools I have dealings with make every effort to support pupils at risk of exclusion," he said.

"But there are some I come

Continued on page 2

Picture: PAUL JERREAT



KNIGHTS TO REMEMBER

A BIG HIT: Thousands flocked to Leeds Castle to watch medieval jousting competition **STORY INSIDE**

ELDERLY CARE

Care homes cash warning

KENT County Council could be facing a huge cash burden if the troubled Southern Cross care home business collapses.

The stark warning comes from a Conservative MP who fears that County Hall will have to pick up the pieces if Southern Cross homes in Kent are closed. **PAGE 6**

WORLD WAR TWO

Tunnels reveal their secrets

A stunning exhibition has opened in the secret tunnels beneath Dover Castle that were the nerve centre for Operation Dynamo.

Some of the war veterans who helped to organise the famous Dunkirk evacuation were in Kent this week for the official opening. **PAGE 8**

FOOTBALL

Truth behind keeper's exit

GOALKEEPER Ross Flitney has revealed why he left Dover Athletic as well as clearing up the speculation linking him with a move to Gillingham.

The 27-year-old expected to be contacted by Gills manager Andy Hessenthaler and admits he is still keeping his options open for next season. **PAGE 95**



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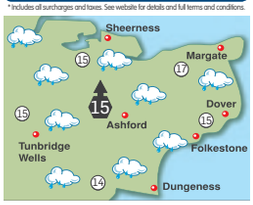
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TODAY: Cloudy with showers or longer spells of rain, mainly later. Max temp 14-17C (57-63F). **TONIGHT:** Some light rain or drizzle. Min temp 12-15C (54-59F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	08.27	5.9	20.54	6.2
Margate	09.24	4.3	21.50	4.4
St Mary's	01.51	4.9	14.28	4.9

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 19C	Min 9C
Tuesday	Max 19C	Min 10C
Wednesday	Max 19C	Min 12C
Thursday	Max 17C	Min 7C
Friday	Max 15C	Min 7C
Saturday	Max 16C	Min 7C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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EDUCATION

The vulnerable 'let down' by expulsion

Continued from front page

across who clearly just want to get rid of a difficult child. I find these numbers staggering and have no explanation for them, but I think Kent County Council ought to be intervening more.

"The figures suggest some schools have not gone all the way to prevent exclusion and should be trying harder. KCC should be offering more support to schools to stop them getting to that stage, but instead vulnerable children are being let down again."

According to the Lamb Inqury report of August last year, children with special educational needs are eight times more likely than their peers to be expelled from school, with about 70 per cent of permanent exclusions nationally affecting SEN pupils.

Exceptional circumstances where expulsion is justified include serious violence, sexual abuse or assault, supply of an illegal drug, or the carrying of an offensive weapon.

John Franklin, who runs the Fathers' Club for parents of autistic children in Gravesham, said he was "horrified" to learn how many SEN children were being expelled from Kent schools.

"It's the beginning of a long chapter for them, because they still need an education," he added.

"Many parents then go through the rigmarole of organising home education when it's much better for a child to stay at school.

"Obviously everything should be done to keep children in education, but there's a delicate balance between providing statutory requirements for SEN pupils and ensuring the safety of other children and staff."

In contrast to the Kent expulsion figures, schools run under the remit of Medway Council did not expel a single statemented child in 2009-10.

A spokesman explained that was because of a range of strategies, including peer mentoring and buddy schemes. Many schools also have a full-time counsellor.

KCC cabinet member for education Cllr Sarah Hohler said: "I have every confidence Kent's headteachers are using exclusions appropriately and fairly.

"Excluding a child or young person is a last resort and tends to be after other preventative options have been exhausted. We monitor trends for exclusions regularly and work with schools to offer any assistance that may be required."



LET DOWN: Many of the expelled children are statemented for special educational needs and will be the most in need of support

COMMENT

BY PETER REID
INDEPENDENT EDUCATION ADVISOR



"A Freedom of Information request has revealed a number of alarming features in the pattern of permanent exclusions (expulsions) in Kent schools.

The first two new-style academies created in Kent top the list of permanent exclusions between September and Easter, headed by Westlands School in Sittingbourne with 11. Next is Canterbury High School with nine permanent exclusions.

Both these schools previously had outstanding Ofsted reports, so it is difficult to believe they have difficult disciplinary problems.

Other schools with high numbers of permanent exclusions over this period are: Chaucer Technology School, Canterbury (nine); Hartsdown Technology College (converting to an academy – eight) and the Marlowe Academy both in Thanet (seven); and Astor College for the Arts in Dover (seven).

The total over this period is rising alarmingly, already being almost the same as for the whole of 2009-10.

In general, an excluded child does not just go away, they are moved to another school to be given a fresh chance but, as this will usually be one of the few with vacancies in the area, it just heaps the problems on a possibly struggling school.

Of particular concern is the number of children with statements of special education needs (SEN) who continue to be permanently excluded, in spite of government policy that "schools should avoid permanently excluding pupils with statements, other than in the most exceptional circumstances".

While I don't yet have figures for this year, in 2009-10 out of a total of 168 secondary exclusions 22 were of statemented children, a further 68 being of other children with SEN, together over half of the total.

However, the most astonishing and alarming statistic in this whole survey is that out of 34 Kent primary school exclusions in the last school year, 13 (nearly half) were of statemented children.

So much for Kent. Meanwhile up in Medway there is a remarkably different picture with just three permanent exclusions from secondary schools in 2009-10 (none statemented), and none from primary schools. For 2010-11 the figure is currently zero for both primary and secondary schools.

This all begs many questions. Firstly, why are the pictures in Kent and Medway so very different?

Medway may only have around one sixth of the children being educated in Kent, but this does not come close to explaining why some Kent schools resort to formal exclusion proceedings so often, whereas Medway can avoid a dramatic, stressful and bureaucratic process so effectively.

Medway schools have always co-operated well over what are called 'managed moves' to a fresh school, although whether this will continue when all are independent academies remains to be seen.

How can Kent primary schools exclude statemented children in such numbers, in direct contradiction to the government imperative that this should only happen in exceptional circumstances? Why does Kent but not Medway have so many exceptional circumstances?

Once again KCC is seeing children who surely deserve the highest standard of care, at the bottom of the pile (see last week's Kent on Sunday). Another factor to add to KCC's Scrutiny Committee investigation into primary school standards.

What is special about Westlands and Canterbury High apart from the fact they are outstanding Ofsted schools, that they need to take this extreme action, effectively forcing these children to less popular and successful schools, whereas others, often in far more difficult situations, appear to be able to manage better? Are they showing the future for academies?

What happens to the schools that become 'dumping grounds' for children excluded by other schools better able to cope with them?

Above all, why does KCC not look at Medway's procedures to learn how to improve these dreadful figures?"

■ **See www.kentadvice.co.uk.**

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TELEVISION

Apprentice hopefuls do rubbish job

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

SOME tried to rebrand Margate, others turned their hand to photography at Bluewater.

But despite dismal results in both tasks, which featured in previous series of hit BBC One show The Apprentice, it seemed the entrepreneurial hopefuls just couldn't keep away from Kent.

This week, Lord Alan Sugar's latest group of wannabe business tycoons got down and dirty in a task involving waste disposal.

And Bromley-based building contractor Inspire Creative Developments Ltd stepped in to offer much-needed advice to the candidates, who include an inventor, skincare expert, and a recruitment manager.

Wednesday's episode saw the hopefuls, who were tasked with setting up junk-collection businesses, pitch to the St Paul's Cray firm, watched over by businesswoman Karren Brady.

Owner of Inspire Creative Developments, Tommy McDermott, said it was obvious the candidates were not used to working in the building industry.

"I suppose I could say they were a bit naïve, but I don't think they have worked in this type of business before," he said.

Mr McDermott, who was not involved in the filming process, said the firm, which offers services to the building industry, had been contacted last year by producers.

"The idea was for a task involving collecting waste from building sites where they had to get rid of or sell it," he said.

"Our company had a site where we were about to start a refurbishment job and so it worked out well. They wanted to use it as a kind of stage more than anything.

"The contracter boys worked with them – I wasn't involved in that – who gave their feedback to Karren Brady.

"I think they're all quite excited – they felt like Hollywood stars, although they've come back down to earth now."

Asked whether any of Lord Sugar's candidates came up with viable business plans, Mr McDermott said: "I'll leave that for viewers to decide I think. I wouldn't like to say."





TIDY: In the latest episode of the popular TV show the candidates were tasked with buying and selling scrap, which included a trip to Bromley contractors, Inspire Creative Developments Ltd

Candidates sported fluorescent jackets, boots and gloves and divided their teams into two; half to pick up rubbish and search for resaleable items, and others to secure clearance contracts.

The teams had to show Lord Sugar they could make money out of rubbish by turning old junk into profit.

But the task ended with 37-year-old Edna Agbarha being fired after a narrow defeat of just £6 between the two teams.

Last week, Canterbury-based candidate Vincent Disneur was booted off the show by Lord Sugar after finding himself back in the boardroom for the fifth time in a row.

The self-confessed perfectionist, who claimed his "very good looks" would help him stand out from the crowd, failed to impress the business tycoon during a task which saw him create a brand of dog food called Every Dog, which was panned by critics.

But the 29-year-old was not the first Kent resident to face the wrath of Lord Sugar.

In 2009 Lorraine Tighe, from Beckenham, and Mona Lewis, from Sittingbourne, were fired in the dreaded boardroom.

Last year's series, however, saw Stella English, from Thamesmead, storm to victory and hired by Lord Sugar.

TUITION FEES

Students to pay almost £9,000 for place at creative arts university

GOVERNMENT funding cuts have been blamed for the University for the Creative Arts' decision to increase tuition fees to just under the £9,000 maximum.

UCA, which has campuses in Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester, says it must rely on the higher charges to cover a 7.8 per cent reduction in the amount of money it receives from the public purse.

Benjo Taylor is chairman of trustees at the university's students' union.

He said: "This figure was not unexpected considering the reckless manner in which the Coalition has decided to attack funding on higher education institutions, particularly those specialising in the creative arts.

"Nevertheless, we are disappointed the fees have had to be set at such a high level to maintain the existing quality of education. The Coalition is attacking education and it is unacceptable to risk the fate of both an incredibly lucrative UK industry and the future of thousands of young people."

From next year students on undergraduate courses at UCA will be charged £8,500 per year, but the money does not have to be paid until the individual concerned has completed their degree and is earning more than £21,000.

The University of Kent announced last April that it plans to raise tuition fees to the maximum £9,000.

Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Greenwich, which has a campus in Medway, are yet to announce how much they plan to charge.

UCA deputy vice-chancellor Prof Mark Hunt said: "Student fees will provide our main source of funding for teaching and investing in the facilities needed to provide students with a high quality creative arts education. Many distinguished practitioners began their careers at UCA including Karen Millen, Zandra Rhodes and Tracey Emin."

Meanwhile, MidKent College has made a formal offer to buy UCA's Maidstone campus on Oakwood Park as part of a £23 million expansion plan.

A decision on the bid is expected to be made when UCA governors meet next month.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Care home closed

SEA View Lodge care home in Herne Bay has been closed down by the Care Quality Commission over "concerns of neglect and abuse".

Following concerns raised on Monday, CQC made an urgent application to Canterbury magistrates' court to cancel the registration of Sea View Lodge and the owners, Nelofa Sheikh and Shahid Sheikh, can no longer offer care services there. Kent County Council has identified alternative placements for the eight residents.

E coli benefits farmers

LOCAL farmers are benefiting from an increase in demand for Kentish food caused by the European E coli outbreak.

Ashford-based food delivery company Foodari Direct says it has experienced a 30 per cent increase in business in the last week alone.

Managing director Jonathan Parker said: "It appears the British consumers' trust in imported food has taken a real knock and they are looking for local food instead."

Fonz goes to school

THE Fonz actor Henry Winkler is visiting pupils at Valence School in Westerham, on Thursday to launch the My Way! awards aimed at raising awareness of the needs of children with learning challenges.

Winkler, who is dyslexic said: "Just because we learn differently, that does not mean that we are not incredibly smart human beings. That's something I need every child to understand."

Winkler has been awarded an OBE for his work for children with learning difficulties.

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GAS EXPLORATION

Rock doc's warning over gas drill plans

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

KENT'S entire water supply could become contaminated if plans to explore for gas lead to controversial 'hydraulic fracking', according to a leading geologist.

Thanet-based Dr Alasdair Bruce said the risks involved with such activity could affect the whole county and also lead to threat of earthquakes.

His warning followed a planning application by Welsh company Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd to drill an exploratory borehole in land at Woodnesborough, near Sandwich.

Although director of the firm Gerwyn Williams stressed it was a simple test of the coal, experts and activists fear the activity will lead to hydraulic fracking if gas is found in shale rock at the site.

The controversial extraction method was recently halted in Lancashire amid concerns it had caused two minor earthquakes in the area.

The process involves firing high-pressure liquid into rocks to force gas out, but it is believed it could activate fault lines.

Folkestone has been hit by two earthquakes in recent years; one in 2007 measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale and a later one in 2009 measuring 2.8.

Dr Bruce said the targeted rock in Woodnesborough sat below an aquifer and above fracture and fault lines.

He said: "The prime issue when I heard of these plans was of the possibility of water contamination. But it's not just contamination of the aquifer above the rock – our supplies in this county are shared around.



FRACKING: Expert fears drilling could contaminate water supply

"This is a Kent-wide issue, not just something that would impact the immediate area of Deal and Sandwich."

Dr Bruce, who said the firm had chosen the "worst possible site" to carry out tests due to the small amount of clay in east Kent, added: "Fracking underneath the rock could reactivate faults believed to be the cause of the Folkestone earthquakes."

The geologist, who runs environmental consultancy firm Rock Doc Ltd, said although an exploratory borehole would not lead to a major incident, the fracking process could lead to a health and safety problem.

And Kent Green Party spokesman Steve Dawe said the party believed if gas was found in hard shale rock at the Dover site, the Welsh company could seek to remove it with fracking.

He warned it could lead to earthquakes and contaminate water with methane and hydrochloric acid.

Fracking is banned in South Africa and a major investigation was carried out in America following problems with the method. The French National Assembly's lower house has also voted for a ban.

But Mr Williams of Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd said the public were being misinformed due to the recent earthquakes in Lancashire.

He said: "Shale is absent in Kent, the only type they have is lower limestone shale. We're drilling an exploratory hole to test the coal. This must have happened thousands of times in Kent over the years. As far as everybody's fears are concerned, we wouldn't be able to do anything that isn't safe."

Dover and Deal Tory MP, Charlie Elphicke, said: "This kind of mining can be done safely in a community which still has a lot of experts in mining."

A Kent County Council spokesman said the application is currently only for an exploratory borehole to take samples for investigation.

■ **See yoursandwich.co.uk for news and sports.**

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Electricity boost as prison turns a blind eye to blades

BLADES will be permitted in prison for the first time when two new wind turbines are built at HMP Standford Hill.

The development at the category D men's jail on the Isle of Sheppey is one of the first commercial-scale wind farms to be approved on public land, and is expected to generate enough electricity to power 2,200 homes.

As part of a renewable energy scheme developed by Partnerships for Renewables (PfR) and supported by the Ministry of Justice, the new turbines will each have a blade length of 41m and stand 121m tall.

PfR chief executive Stephen Ainger said: "Our newly-won consent at Standford Hill is great news as our first successful planning permission for a wind energy development.

"It is also one of the first commercial-scale wind farm consents to be delivered on public sector land in England, and as such represents a major landmark for both the MoJ and the public sector as a whole."



WIND FARM: Turbines will be installed at HMP Standford Hill

Standford Hill is one of three prisons in the village of Eastchurch, alongside the category B/C Elmley and category B Swaleside, which comprise the Sheppey prisons cluster.

The wind turbines will generate about 10 megawatt hours of electricity per year, or about 88 per cent of the cluster's annual electricity requirement.

But the decision to approve the planning application has raised concerns about the impact on wildlife and the danger the structures might cause to aircraft attempting to land at a nearby airfield.

Eastchurch resident Phil Haynes submitted a 35-page report to Swale council regarding the bird activity in the area, but says his objections were "totally ignored".

The Government is under pressure to embrace wind energy to ensure the UK meets its renewables and emissions targets, amid complaints the planning requirements for wind farms are too obstructive.

Last month the Danish firm Vestas announced it wants to open a wind turbine factory at Sheerness docks, but the deal is reliant on government support for the industry.

Prime Minister David Cameron revealed during Prime Minister's Questions on Wednesday that part of the Coalition's reform of the planning system was to speed up the process regarding wind farms.

■ **See Keep Kent Working on p38 for more on the county's wind farms.**

POLITICS

Archbishop in Coalition spat

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has attacked the Coalition for "forcing through radical policies for which no-one voted".

In an article for New Statesman magazine, Dr Rowan Williams spoke of his disappointment over proposed NHS reforms and welfare benefits that were not included in either the Conservative or the Liberal Democrat manifestos.

But senior Tory backbencher Roger Gale, MP for Thanet North, said: "The measures Dr Williams has criticised have been considered and ratified – or are in the process of being amended and ratified – by a majority in the House of Commons. That is how our parliamentary process works."

HEALTH

Head and neck above the rest

EAST Kent's new specialist head and neck service was officially opened on Friday.

The service includes maxillofacial surgery for the treatment of head and neck cancer, oral and facial reconstruction, facial deformity and severe facial injuries, and specialist orthodontic and restorative dental services.

A £5 million centre at the William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, contains its own procedure room, maxillofacial laboratory and 3-D imaging technology which is not available at other Kent hospitals.

Day surgery operating and outpatient clinics will continue at Canterbury, Margate and Dover.

SEA RESCUE

Laser attack on helicopter

A CHOPPER called to help a search operation had to be stood down when it was targeted by a laser pointer light late on Monday.

Rescue crews were looking for a person thought to have got into difficulty off the rocks at Copt Point in Folkestone.

The RAF Sea King helicopter arrived to start searching using its infra red camera system in an attempt to identify heat sources, but it was targeted by the laser pointer and had to be withdrawn from the operation.

Despite the setback, Dover's volunteer RNLI lifeboat crew and the emergency towing vessel, Anglian Princess, continued the search but nothing was found.

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ELDERLY CARE

KCC faces 'huge' cash burden if care home company collapses

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

CONCERNS have been raised about the impact the potential collapse of Southern Cross could have on Kent County Council's finances.

The troubled care home provider announced this week that it plans to cut 3,000 jobs from its workforce of 44,000 as part of desperate attempts to stave off bankruptcy.

In a letter to KCC, Canterbury and Whitstable Tory MP Julian Brazier said the possible death of the firm – which runs 10 care homes in the county – could place a "huge burden" on the council's adult social services budget.

He wrote: "I am extremely concerned that Southern Cross care homes are on the verge of financial collapse, potentially leaving hundreds of elderly and vulnerable people facing a very uncertain future.

"I am aware the company is currently trying to stave off collapse by restructuring its finances but, should the worst happen, this would obviously place a huge burden on your (adult social services) department and budgets.

"I would therefore be very grateful if you could let me know what contingency plans you are making and what will happen to the homes and their residents in the event that Southern Cross' restructuring exercise is unsuccessful."



UNCERTAIN: Hundreds of local elderly people would be put at risk should Southern Cross fail

Mr Brazier added afterwards: "I sincerely hope Southern Cross will manage to put its affairs in order so people in their homes will not face a disruptive and upsetting change of circumstances.

"I am seeking assurance, however, that the county council will be able to step into the breach should the company collapse entirely."

Southern Cross currently spends about £180 million a year in rent payments for its 750 homes across the UK, but last month it reported half-year losses of £311m and warned it was in a "critical financial condition".

KCC pays about £2m a year to fund the care of 85 elderly people living in five of the homes: Elvy Court in Sittingbourne; Highfield in Canterbury; Kingsfield in Faversham; and Fairfield Manor and Woodlands, both in Broadstairs.

Southern Cross' five remaining Kent homes are Copper Beeches in Rochester; Frindsbury Hall in Strood; Adelaide in Bexleyheath; and Lauriston House and St Raphael's, both in Bromley.

Cllr Graham Gibbens, cabinet member for adult social care at KCC, said he understood how nervous and concerned residents may be regarding the firm's financial plight.

He added: "Staff within our adult social care team are working with Southern Cross and with all care providers to ensure services are being maintained to the highest quality.

"It's not just our 85 people. There are a further 100-plus people (in Kent) who are in Southern Cross homes and we want to ensure, should Southern Cross go into administration, that we will work with the administrator.

"We will work together with the NHS to ensure the service continues and is maintained to a high standard."

EATING OUT

Great starter for new restaurant

A PACKED launch party on Tuesday evening heralded the arrival of the county's latest restaurant and bar to be set up by a celebrity chef.

Rocksalt is the creation of chef Mark Sargeant, pictured, and business partner Josh De Haan, and it is hoped its establishment by Folkestone harbour will help turn around the fortunes of the run-down area of the town.



Building work on the restaurant was done by Canterbury-based Cardy Construction.

Sargeant made his name through 13 years working with perhaps the most famous of all celebrity chefs, Gordon Ramsay. From 2001-8, he was head chef in Claridge's main restaurant, run by Ramsay.

In 2009, Sargeant became creative director at The Swan Collection, which runs The Swan at West Malling, Sargeant's home town, but now he is setting out on his first sole venture.

"How my life has turned around," he told KoS. "Thirteen years in London working for Gordon Ramsay and now I'm living by the sea – who wouldn't want to live by the sea?"

Speaking later to the crowd, he said: "Part of the ethos here is to use as much local produce and local business as possible – all those buzz words you hear in London, but in the countryside it really means something."

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ENVIRONMENT

Lack of green spaces causing urban heatwave



HOT TOPIC: The loss of lawns and greenery in gardens has helped make towns warmer

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

URBAN areas are getting hotter in Kent due to an "erosion" of playing fields, gardens and other green spaces.

According to a report by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), temperatures in built-up areas are currently up to six degrees higher than in rural areas and will continue to rise as a result of climate change.

The organisation says more needs to be done to alleviate the problem, such as increasing the amount of green space in town centres and planting vegetation on roofs and walls.

"While much of Kent is rural and there are relatively few large towns or cities, many of its residents work or live in urban environments," said Paul Collins, chairman of the RICS Green Infrastructure working group.

"By designing in open green space, neighbourhoods can be improved and it should help to decrease the urban temperature increases that are likely in the future.

"It is particularly important in Kent towns where green space is being eroded, as playing fields and gardens increasingly make way for roads and new developments."

Current climate change predictions suggest that summer temperatures in the UK may rise by up to 3.5 degrees by 2050, with urban areas particularly susceptible.

However, the RICS report says the impact of the 'urban heat island effect' could be reduced by as much as 2.5 degrees by planting more vegetation.

It also promotes the increase of green space in preventing flooding, improving air quality, reducing noise and supporting biodiversity.

The addition of vegetation and plant matter to a building's roof can also help moderate its internal climate, thereby reducing a business' running costs.

Kent Green Party spokesman Steve Dawe said there was an enormous variation in the amount of green spaces available across the county's town centres.

"Ashford has a significant green corridor around the river but others are very built up leaving very little green space, and Canterbury is an example of that," he said.

"Medway suffers from a lack of green space too, and getting rid of lots of trees to clear space for a new bus station in Chatham hasn't helped.

"But given the extreme reductions in council spending over the years, it's difficult to see how they're going to afford to create new green spaces.

"The principle is right but the best thing we can do to tackle urban warming quickly and easily is to improve the energy efficiency of buildings in built-up areas."

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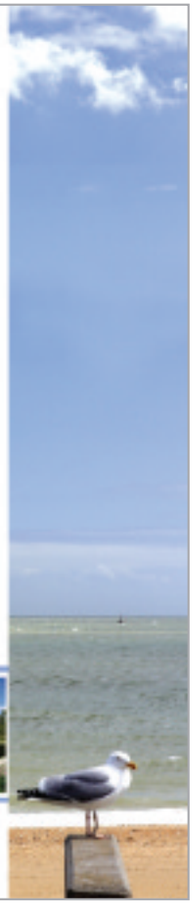
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WORLD WAR TWO

Tunnels into the past relive the hell of Operation Dynamo

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk



A NEW visitor attraction has opened in the tunnels under Dover Castle that recreates the drama of the World War Two evacuation of Dunkirk in the very rooms where it was masterminded.

Using state-of-the-art image projection, and original newsreel and footage, it shows how what Sir Winston Churchill called a "miracle of deliverance" was achieved when 338,000 British and French troops were plucked from under the guns of the Nazis in 1940.

As well as the Royal Navy, an armada of volunteers sailed their trawlers, pleasure craft and paddle steamers across the Channel into the inferno of the French port.

Operation Dynamo, as it was codenamed, was overseen by Vice Admiral Sir Bertram Home Ramsay who had realised the strategic importance of the tunnels – parts of which date from the Napoleonic War – when he was part of the Dover Patrol in World War One.

The new displays include moving images and sound which recreate the beaches under attack. Destroyers are seen moving into shore while the beleaguered soldiers fire at German aircraft as they scream overhead.

One Messerschmitt 110 fighter bomber is seen to crash in flames while destroyers take hits from exploding bombs, and the famous Little Ships perform their heroics.

Dialogue from soldiers is broadcast amidst the sounds of warfare as the timeline unfolds with the action projected onto the original tunnel walls.

Other parts of the base are recreated with 1940s telephones, plotting maps, exchanges, and even cutlery, bringing authenticity.

Sir Bertram established the base as the Allies were in full retreat just across the English Channel.

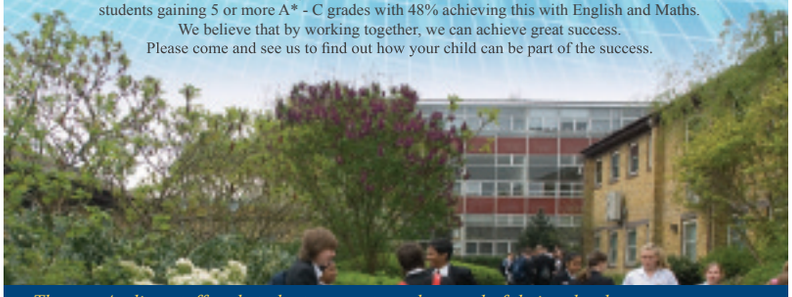
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Pictures: PAUL JERREAT

The Admiral, who was later knighted but died in an aircraft crash at the end of the war, put his organisational skills to good use and established the rooms as the place to oversee operations in the Straits of Dover.

And when the order came to evacuate the Allied troops on May 26, 1940, he said: "I am directing one of the most hazardous operations ever conceived and unless the good God is very kind there will be tragedies attached to it."

Richard Sheen, now 92, worked in the gunnery operations room at Dover.

"We could see over the port and it was crammed with little ships and destroyers weaving about," he said. "They had all come to aid in the evacuation.

"The next day, as if by magic, they had all disappeared. They had been ready, ready to go to hell – which is actually what they headed into."

Mr Sheen, who remembers chalking his initials on a wall in the tunnels which had been decorated with soldiers' graffiti dating back to their first use in 1797, added: "This brings back so many memories – mind you there's a lot more equipment here than there was back then."

Admiral Ramsay's son, Major General Charles Ramsay, said: "It makes me very proud. It is wonderful the way these tunnels have been developed with such hi-tech displays. It really tells people what it was all about."

English Heritage curator Rowena Willard-Wright said: "We want to keep the legacy of Operation Dynamo alive for younger people.

"The experience put visitors on the beaches themselves and we want to pay tribute to the heroism of those at Dunkirk and those who planned and performed the rescue."

■ **To see a video of the displays and interviews with those involved go to www.yourkenttv.co.uk. See www.yourdover.co.uk for news and sport headlines updated daily.**

LIFE DURING WARTIME: From left: Richard Sheen worked in the gunnery operations room; one of the war rooms; the historic tunnels date back to the Napoleonic War; Major General Charles Ramsay





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PLANNING BLUEPRINT

'Crazy' consultation over waste dumps and quarries

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A CONTROVERSIAL document listing almost 100 potential waste dumps and quarries in the county has been criticised for causing people to worry needlessly.

Kent County Council is asking for the public's views on the proposals to help form a 20-year development framework, but none of the locations included in the consultation paper have been vetted for suitability.

The sites, which were all put forward by either businesses or landowners, will only be considered once the consultation period ends on July 26.

"Anyone could suggest something and it would have been put in the plan," said Philip Hobson, chairman of Shoreham Parish Council in Sevenoaks. "I could have put my back garden in there if I'd wanted to because there was no pre-sifting. It's crazy."

One of the 96 potential developments included in the consultation is for a mineral extraction site just a few hundred yards from the centre of Shoreham.

Cllr Hobson said it was unlikely the proposal would ever see the light of day, but that villagers were understandably concerned.



ANYWHERE: As the sites listed were 'unsifted' any location, including back gardens, could apparently be named

He added: "The people of Shoreham are going to be worried until a decision is made, even though it's highly unlikely the plan will reach the next stage.

"I'm confident it will be deemed unsuitable but there's always a possibility it will get through. We're going to have to spend a lot of time and money trying to knock back this proposal when we wouldn't have had to if somebody had ruled this as a no-goer straight away."

Once the first consultation period has ended, KCC planning officers will sift the sites before putting the most suitable ones out for a second round.

These documents will then be presented at a public examination, with the Planning Inspectorate making recommendations on the final framework.

Cllr David Brazier, deputy cabinet member for environment, highways and waste, is heading up the team preparing the plans.

He said: "We are giving the public the chance to vote and influence plans for the future. This is the Big Society in action. Waste and mineral operations can mean a welcome jobs boost for local communities. At the same time, residents can naturally be concerned about the impact these developments will have on their lives.

"Operators have already told us where they want to work. Now it's time for residents and businesses to have their say."

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HEALTH

NHS chiefs ignoring guidelines over IVF

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

KENT'S health trusts have been criticised in Parliament for offering less than the recommended number of IVF cycles for infertile couples.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) says eligible couples should be offered up to three cycles of the lab-controlled conception technique, but a report reveals the guidance is being ignored by 73 per cent of the UK's primary care trusts. This includes all three in the county – West Kent, Medway, and Eastern and Coastal Kent – which only offer two cycles each.

During Prime Minister's Questions on Wednesday, David Cameron urged PCTs to follow the NICE guidelines.

Dartford Tory MP Gareth Johnson is chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Infertility, which published the report. He said: "One in seven couples suffer from infertility problems and it is also the most common problem women ask about when they visit their GP, other than pregnancy.

"It's the creation of life for many people, and there are thousands of people alive who wouldn't have been if it were not for IVF. The treatment was invented in Britain and so more than any other country we should be championing its use."

IVF (in vitro fertilisation) is a process by which egg cells are fertilised by sperm outside the body before being returned to the woman's uterus. According to NICE, couples should be offered up to three cycles of IVF where the female is aged 23-39 for her to stand a good chance of falling pregnant.

But according to father-of-two Mr Johnson, who has been through IVF treatment with his wife Wendy, a postcode lottery exists due to many NHS trusts offering less than the recommended number of cycles, and some none at all.

A single cycle of IVF, including medicines and consultations, can typically cost £4,000-£8,000.

Mr Johnson said: "We are calling on all PCTs to follow the NICE guidance because many are not offering what they should be. The three-cycle figure was not plucked out of the air. It was based on scientific research that recognises there are finite resources but also wants to increase the chances of women falling pregnant."

Late last year both NHS Medway and NHS West Kent asked GPs to stop referring patients for IVF treatment – unless the female partner was approaching the age cut-off date – due to financial pressures.

However, the winter ban has been lifted and both trusts now offer two cycles of treatment.

Nicky Bentley, lead commissioner for assisted conception services for Kent and Medway, spoke on behalf of the county's PCTs. He said: "We want to make sure as many eligible people as possible can receive fertility treatment.

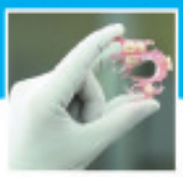
"As demand for health services continues to rise, inevitably, we have to prioritise spending. As a result, it was decided we would offer two cycles of treatment so more people could have access to it, rather than fewer people having more IVF treatment."



TREATMENT: Eligible couples are supposed to be offered up to three rounds of IVF fertility treatment on the NHS

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TV COMMERCIAL



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A FAST food giant has come to the Kent coast to film its latest TV advert.

McDonald's came to Broadstairs for the backdrop for its summer advertising campaign and shooting took place on Friday, June 3.

Actors, camera crews and a giant happy-meal box could be seen on the sands in Viking Bay.

The family advert for the burger chain is expected to appear on TV screens throughout July.

POLITICAL EXPENSES

Red-faced councillors barred after failing to file expenses properly

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

FIFTEEN councillors – including two newly-appointed mayors – were temporarily barred from sitting on their councils after bumbling expenses errors.

The red-faced town and parish members were notified by Shepway District Council that they had either failed to submit expenses returns on time or had handed them in incomplete.

The returns were related to expenses for the May 5 council elections.

All 15 members, 13 of whom are Tories, were ruled ineligible to sit on their councils and temporarily barred from attending meetings until the blunders were rectified.

A district council spokesman said the deadline for expenses submissions – which was initially June 3 – had been extended to Friday, June 10.

He said: "It is electoral law that forms have to be submitted on time. It is not a responsive decision made by our electoral service department.

"It doesn't bar them from being a councillor; it bars them from sitting until they submit their returns."

The 15 councillors involved – of which 13 were Tories and two People's First – sit on Folkestone Town Council, Hythe Town Council, and Sandgate Parish Council.

Newly appointed mayors of Folkestone and Hythe – Cllr Sue Wallace and Cllr David Owen – were among those involved in the blunder.

Cllr Wallace told KoS the matter had now been rectified. "It was more or less an administrative error," she said.

"Some of us hadn't signed a piece of paper within the bundles of paperwork. It wasn't that it was unclear, we probably read it wrong.

"It's just one of those silly things. We hadn't broken the law and it's been sorted out now."

She added: "As long as we signed the forms we were reinstated and able to attend meetings."

While some didn't complete the returns, others failed to hand them in on time and were allowed to submit them by Friday.

But while the members dismissed it as a trivial administrative error, Shepway's Lib Dems berated the councillors for tripping up so soon after the elections.

Spokesman Darren Briddock said "It's amazing that so quickly after being entrusted with running their local councils, 13 Conservatives and both People First councillors in the district have failed to submit a simple set of forms on time and complete, let alone run a council.

"I'm sure the Conservatives will bluster that this is a simple administrative error and easily corrected. It's actually the failure to submit legally required forms completed correctly by a legally defined deadline.

"If you can't stick to the law and get paperwork in on time, you have no business trying to run a council."

Schoolboy stabbed

A TEENAGE boy is recovering in hospital after being stabbed in the leg while on his way home from school. The 14-year-old Northfleet Technology College pupil was attacked in Park Avenue, Northfleet, shortly after 3pm on Tuesday.

His assailant was slim, black, about 16, with short hair and wearing a grey hoody and jeans.

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LITERATURE

Outgoing children's laureate in plea to encourage creativity

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

CHILDREN should "cherish their creativity" and not lose sight of it as they grow older, says Kent's former children's laureate, Anthony Browne.

His two-year term in the prestigious role came to an end on Tuesday, with Julia Donaldson – author of the best-selling picture book The Gruffalo – appointed as his successor.

Illustrator Mr Browne, 64, from Canterbury, told KoS he had thoroughly enjoyed his time as children's laureate and he hoped his countless visits to schools and community groups had left a lasting impression on the youngsters he spoke to.

"I wanted to encourage children's and adults' creativity by talking about picture books and drawing," he said.

"Everybody can draw or make up a story when they're young, but as we get older we start to say 'no, I can't draw' or 'no, I can't come up with an interesting story'. What happens to us? We should learn to cherish and encourage our creativity."

Born and raised in the village of Hipperholme, West Yorkshire, Mr Browne studied graphic design at Leeds College of Art before going on to illustrate medical textbooks and then greetings cards.

He eventually turned his attention to children's books and in 2000 received the highest international honour for illustration – the Hans Christian Andersen Award – for his services to children's literature.

Mr Browne has written nearly 40 books, including Gorilla, Little Beauty, Silly Billy, A Walk in the Park, and Willy the Wimp.

He said: "It's important to encourage the enjoyment of reading because we get so much out of it. During my time as children's laureate I particularly concentrated on picture books because I felt they were being marginalised.

"Parents are encouraging their children to leave picture books behind earlier and earlier, because they want to help them with their learning. I think that's a mistake, particularly for boys, because as soon as reading stops being enjoyable, the interest goes."

Last month KoS revealed how a growing number of well-known authors – including eccentric Tunbridge Wells resident Philip Ardagh – had joined together to condemn cuts to school library services.

Just 85 councils out of more than 150 with responsibility for schools run their own dedicated service, providing fresh stocks of books to schools alongside a range of other resources.

Mr Browne said: "It's a terrible shame. We should be encouraging libraries to become more interesting, provide more resources and be more exciting places to be – not the other way around."

■ **See yourcanterbury.co.uk for news and sports.**

Picture: LAURENCE CENDROWICZ



ILLUSTRATOR: Former children's laureate, Anthony Browne

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SOCIAL CARE

Elderly could be 'left to languish' by care cuts

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

SEVERE cuts to adult social care funding could be "catastrophic" for millions in later life.

According to a report by Saga, the Folkestone-based organisation for over-50s, the shortfall in spending on care could be much worse than previously thought, with the UK languishing near the bottom of the European league.

The warning comes at a time when Kent County Council is planning to close or rebuild a number of care homes for the elderly in an attempt to save about £2 million, while also increasing its charges for recipients of adult social care.

Saga director-general Dr Ros Altmann said: "Decent care cannot be provided on the cheap but not enough money has been allocated.

"The fact that people live longer has been with us for a long time, but successive governments have failed to prepare properly to address the inevitable consequences.

"Warnings of a pensions crisis were ignored but are finally being taken seriously with urgent reform. However, no such sense of urgency has been shown when it comes to care.

"If we think the pensions crisis is a huge problem, care could be a major catastrophe as more older people are left to languish with inadequate resources to look after their needs."

KCC lost £58m in government grants this year and must make savings of £95m as a result.

About £3m will come from increased charges for people who access adult social services, including those with mental health problems who previously did not have to pay.

Dr Altmann said it was not unreasonable to ask some people to pay more if they can afford to, and welcomed the fact people with moderate care needs in Kent will still receive funding.

However, the Saga report shows some 275,000 people in that category elsewhere in the UK have already had financial support cut completely.

Dr Altmann said: "We should be ashamed of the lack of spending on care, which is leading to an undignified way of life for people growing old.

"We need new thinking and there is no time to dither. More older people means more demand for social care, but less funding and local authority cutbacks leave vulnerable voiceless victims at risk.

"It's a time bomb and we must defuse it."

■ Bexley will not be raising the level of need required for residents to qualify for social care and support. Cllr David Hurt said: "We have been able to leave the level of need unchanged because of the massive effort we have made to increase efficiency and make 'back office' savings."

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CRIME

New man leads fight against major crime

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

SPENDING cuts and job losses could have a huge impact on people's confidence in the police, warns the new head of Kent's serious crime squad.

The county force is currently battling to save £50 million over the next four years due to a 20 per cent cut in Home Office funding, which is expected to lead to a loss of around 500 officers and 1,000 support staff.

But speaking to KoS in his new role as head of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge indicated that his department should be spared the brunt of the reductions.

"Nothing would impact on public confidence more than a very serious crime going undetected," he said.

"People expect us to keep them safe, and that's something we're very strong at. I think the chief constables of Kent and Essex have been very clear about the scale of the financial challenge, and that jobs will have to go over the next four years.

"But in times like these you look at what gives you the best value for money, and a collaboration (with Essex) offers us that. We in the Serious Crime Directorate have made the savings that have been asked of us and what we've got is what we will keep now in dealing with the upper end of criminality."

The Serious Crime Directorate is one of the largest divisions in UK policing dedicated to tackling serious and organised crime, with more than 1,100 police officers and staff across six departments. These include major crimes such as murder and rape, serious and organised crime like drug trafficking, intelligence, forensics, and two departments involving covert support.

Officers from the directorate were among the first on the scene following the shocking murders of Christine Chambers and her two-year-old daughter Shania in Braintree, Essex, on Monday.

Mr Beautridge joined Kent Police in 1979, and spent the majority of his career as a detective, overseeing a number of high-profile cases including the 1998 Kent Air Ambulance disaster.

He was appointed head of the Serious Crime Directorate following the promotion of his predecessor Alan Pughsley to the rank of Deputy Chief Constable last March.

Mr Beautridge said: "Every single county and community unfortunately has criminals within it, and Kent does have people who operate at the higher end of criminal ventures. I wouldn't want to mislead anybody to the contrary.

"The better criminals operate in the same way as successful businessmen in that they are bright and intelligent. But we have the capacity and the capability in terms of the experience and professionalism of our staff to get after these people and bring them to justice."



FOREWARNED: Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge

Meanwhile, Kent Police Federation has run the last of four adverts in KoS aimed at raising awareness of the 20 per cent cuts to policing.

But chairman Ian Pointon says the campaign will continue and is urging people to lobby their MPs in support of it.

He added: "We have already lost a staggering 173 officers since last year. At a time when overseas aid, as important as that is, is set to rise by 42 per cent to £12 billion per annum, is it right the policing budget is being cut by 20 per cent?

"In four years this country will be spending significantly more on overseas aid than it does on the safety of it own citizens. That cannot be right."

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TRIBUTES

Family say goodbye to tragic Alex

FAMILY tributes have been paid to a 12-year-old boy who died after falling into the River Medway

Alex Chappell died on May 30. He had been playing with friends on a swing over the river at a park near The Stampers in Tovil at 2.30pm, when he fell in to the water.

His parents Gina Tweddell and Adam Ottaway said: "We will always remember the joy, fun, cheekiness and stubbornness you gave us.

"You always knew how to keep us on our toes in times of laughter and sorrow. Who can forget the love and kindness you gave. We are proud to have you as a son and we will always love you. Words can't explain the emotion and loss we feel. Stay safe our brave boy, we will be with you very soon.

"You will always be in our hearts and our hearts will always be with you."

Alex had a passion for woodworking and making things, and had been working on a BMX bike.

Grandparents Phil and Angela Tweddell said: "His last day with us he was helping his nanny try to find out what was nibbling the carrots that she had to feed to the guinea pigs, then he went to the wood shed where he started stripping his BMX ready for a respray and there it still is."



PROUD: Alex Chappell's parents have paid a moving tribute to their kind son

And grandparents Paul and Donna Ottaway added: "We are sad that we can't share in the life he should have had, but are very proud of the young man he had become. Goodnight Alex, we look forward to seeing you again. You will be greatly missed, all our love."

FUNDING

Community projects do battle for lottery cash

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

AN AMBITIOUS project aimed at restoring a series of wartime tunnels beneath Ramsgate is among six battling it out for a slice of lottery cash.

Later this month viewers of Meridian Tonight will vote for their three favourite finalists in the Jubilee People's Millions competition, all of which will receive up to £60,000 funding as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations next year.

The Ramsgate Tunnels Heritage Project, which will be featured on the ITV regional news programme on Monday, June 27, seeks to open a small section of the underground network which protected thousands of residents during World War Two.

Town mayor Cllr David Green said: "We've reached the point where there are very few people left with direct memories of using the tunnels as air raid shelters, which is why we want to show the current generation what went on there during the war.

"Ramsgate lost its museum when the town library burned down a few years ago, so this project would create something for teachers, tourists and other members of the public to enjoy. The response we've had for the idea has been fantastic so far."

The project competing against Ramsgate Tunnels is the Respite Holidays That Are Magic scheme – organised by Medway Autism Group and Information Centre – which wants to purchase a holiday home at Allhallows-on-Sea on the Hoo Peninsula.

The final night of voting on June 29 will see the Community Park for North Deal project lock horns with Bradstow School's Streetpitch scheme in Broadstairs.

Bradstow's inclusion development manager Lorraine Hiller said the school, which caters for autistic children, wants to build a five-a-side football pitch with an artificial highway system surrounding it to teach pupils how to cross the road.

"It will have level crossings, traffic lights and zebra crossings to teach our children road skills," she said.

"They can't gain these skills anywhere else because it's too dangerous for them to go out and practice on real roads, so this is another way of increasing their independence.

"We think this is the only development of its kind in the world and it would mean a huge amount to the children and the school if we were to win the £58,000 we need. It would really benefit the community, too."

Sixty lottery grants worth a total of £3.6 million will be awarded across the UK through the scheme.

In addition to the three in the Meridian region that will win up to £60,000 each, the best runner-up over the three nights will also receive the funding they requested.

Fiona Dempsie of the Big Lottery Fund said: "We're delighted to be able to help mark 60 years of the Queen's reign and we look forward to seeing a hotly-contested competition where the public will be able to choose which projects take home these special grants. Next year will be momentous for many reasons but £60,000 could make it even more amazing for 60 UK communities."



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INTERNET

Your disappointing verdict for broadband provision

Broadband speeds across Kent are underwhelming, with most describing them as unsatisfactory.

Visitors to kentnews.co.uk were asked what sort of speeds they received and nearly seven out of 10 said they were either 'disappointing' or 'rubbish'.

This once again underlines the issues faced by many in Kent as the county struggles to bring itself up to speed in the digital age.







OUR NATURAL BEAUTIES: From left, Natalie Archibald and Simone Morris are looking to save the planet and win their crowns when they compete in the national Miss Earth contest later this year

BEAUTY PAGEANT

Green goddesses focus on the environment in bid to become queens

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

ELEGANT eco-warriors inspired by the Garden of England have reached the UK final of a global beauty pageant.

Natalie Archibald, 19, from Faversham, and Simone Morris, 15, from Snodland, will take part in the Miss Earth and Miss Teen Earth competitions respectively in an attempt to raise awareness of environmental issues such as climate change and recycling.

The winner of the main UK contest will represent the country at the international finals in Thailand later this year.

But before that Natalie, who studies performing arts at Canterbury College, will have to demonstrate to judges how she has contributed to environmental conservation in her community.

She said: "I've already done a couple of things, including helping to clean up a nature reserve on the Saxon Shore Way at Seasalter and giving a presentation to people in my class at college.

"I think the Miss Earth message is a brilliant one because not a lot of people my age understand the concept of protecting the environment. When I spoke to my classmates about things like recycling, they didn't seem to have a clue.

"But it would be amazing to win the UK final; out of this world really.

"I've been taking part in beauty pageants for about seven years but to win this one would be extra special because it's promoting such an important issue."

The winner of Miss Earth UK will join more than 100 other young women vying for the chance to become an ambassador for environmental protection campaigns worldwide.

Also up for grabs is a modelling contract, a wardrobe of evening gowns, a pair of organic jeans, and even a handbag made from recycled number plates.

Natalie and Simone reached the semi-finals of their respective competitions after submitting pictures and online entry forms about themselves.

They were both selected as grand finalists after impressing during individual private interviews.

Simone said: "I want the environment to be saved for as long as possible, and I'm helping out by getting involved in things like recycling.

"I'd love to have a career in the fashion industry and have my own range of clothes made from recycled material."

The Miss Earth UK finals are in September. See www.missearthgirls.co.uk for more information.





QUEEN'S HONOURS

Volunteer groups get MBEs from the Queen

A COASTWATCH crew and community bus company are among five groups to have been awarded an MBE for voluntary services.

The Kent groups were chosen from hundreds of nominees in the South East for their outstanding work.

Folkestone's branch of the National Coastwatch Institution (NCI), which helps keep watch over the coastline; and Brighter Futures for Older People in Maidstone, a befriending service for the elderly, were both commended, along with Health Action Charity Organisation, which works with African communities in Medway.

Petts Wood Playgroup for Children with Special Needs, near Bromley, and Bexhill Community Bus Ltd, also received MBEs, The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Station manager of NCI Folkestone, Tony Hutt, said: "We were so grateful and excited to be nominated so to actually get it is great."

The groups will receive a certificate signed by the Queen and a commemorative crystal presented by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant.

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News

JOUSTING

Pictures: PAUL JERREAT



KNIGHT RIDER: More than 27,000 people watched the exciting sport of jousting staged at Leeds Castle

Thousands enjoy the knights' joust at castle

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk



THE Knights of Royal England came to Leeds Castle to stage a series of spectacular jousts in front of more than 27,000 people last week.

The mass of spectators watched displays of horsemanship and fights with weapons dating back to the Middle Ages in an event sponsored by Archant KOS Media.

A specially constructed tournament ring was the venue for the encounters, set up in the meadows outside the castle walls.

Jousting dates back to the Middle Ages when knights practised their horsemanship skills using a lance as a weapon.

The sport developed with two armed horsemen riding at each other with levelled lances, each aiming to unseat his opponent.

It declined as a serious sport with the arrival of gunpowder in the 17th century, but the Victorians revived it as entertainment. In recent years films such as Heath Ledger's A Knight's Tale have increased its popularity as a spectacle.

This form of combat – bizzarely the official sport of the state of Maryland, USA – was even popular in wartime during the Middle Ages.

A spokeswoman for the event said: "Leeds Castle is pleased so many people supported our annual jousting event this year. The weather was fantastic and thousands enjoyed a day in the sunshine at 'the loveliest castle in the world'. We look forward to welcoming our visitors back to our next jousting event on September 10-11, and on September 9 for special ticketed evening of Sunset Jousting and an open-air cinema screening of A Knight's Tale."

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News

EDUCATION

Gove's school admissions code proposals under fire

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

GOVERNMENT education chiefs have been warned an "over-simplified" school admissions code risks creating even more confusion for parents.

Proposed new rules on how places are allocated in state schools have been put out for consultation, but the guide has been criticised for lacking detail in several key areas.

Concern has also been raised over plans to allow oversubscribed schools to expand more easily, which opponents say could spell the demise of less popular neighbouring schools.

Independent education adviser Peter Read said other proposed rules – including allowing primary schools to exceed their 30-infants per class limit for twins and children from military families – have not been explained clearly enough to avoid confusion.

"What if 20 Gurkha families move to Shorncliffe Barracks in Folkestone?" he said.

"Will all of their children be allowed to attend the same primary school?

"That's not been explained and there's a lot of vagueness and ambiguity, as there is with other parts of the code.

"It's a consultation and one hopes these points will be taken up, but if they are all taken up then the code will go back to being as big as it was before."

Education Secretary Michael Gove said the old code, which was 130 pages long, was "bureaucratic and unfair".

Other proposals included in the new 50-page version include the banning of area-wide lotteries for popular schools, and improvements in the way places are allocated to children who move area in the middle of an academic year.

Cllr Gary Cooke – deputy cabinet member for education at Kent County Council – warned that simplification of the code may create additional conflict between schools and parents.

He said: "Some schools may choose to set arrangements that parents may consider unfair, and without a definitive rulebook the Department for Education (DfE) – and indeed local authorities – may find they are constantly brought into battles regarding what is fair or reasonable in regard to admissions arrangements."

The most controversial proposal in the new code involves allowing popular schools to expand without permission from local authorities or the education secretary.

Although this could see an end to admissions pressure in places like west Kent, there are fears that underachieving or less popular schools could end up closing due to lack of finances. This is because funding is allocated based on pupil numbers.

Cllr Cooke added: "As with any change in legislation and procedures, there will always be some winners and some losers."

The 12-week consultation started on May 27. Visit www.education.gov.uk/consultations for more information.

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Every town on the lake side has its charms, but some of the most spectacular views are to be found near the middle of the lake, between Tremezzo, Cadenabbia (our base) and Mennagio, Bellagio and Varenna where the sheer scale of the area, from the depth of the lake to the height of the mountains, can be seen.

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- Return car ferry

OPINION

EU bailout a burden too far

Ukip leader Nigel Farage says we should use public money for services at home – not abroad on EU funding for the likes of Portugal and Greece

ACCORDING to county council figures, the Government's austerity drive is forcing Kent to find £340 million savings from its £2.4 billion budget.

This amounts to at least 1,500 jobs lost out of 12,000 council employees and almost 10,000 public sector workers, all told.

A report produced by the council in January shows the knock-on effect of the cuts beyond the 1,500 directly employed will be 37,910 across the county.

Meanwhile the Government has so far committed £12.5bn, or £604 per man, woman and child, to the European Union bailouts.

The Labour government left a legacy of financial failure.

This Government talks about cuts but in fact is increasing public spending.

The taxes raised do not cover the spending already committed.

Any household, any business, any department, in the situation we are in now would recognise that we cannot go on like this.

According to the Local Government Rich List, a study by the Taxpayers' Alliance, there are 31 Kent County Council staff on six-figure salaries, one of the highest number for any council in England.

There is fat to be cut in Kent. Taxpayers have been paying far too much for far too long.

But when we see what is being cut, it isn't the big salary positions.

In recent months we have learnt that school libraries are for the chop – a brilliant idea when educational standards are decreasing.

Low-paid nurses in Kent are being forced to pay for parking at work; subsidised bus services for some of the more isolated villages could be axed, threatening isolation for our pensioners.

Youth clubs are being hit, and the local Kent Police Federation is considering action over proposed cuts of over 500 officers.

And these are just some of the issues that I have received in my mailbox.

Of course, there is a massive elephant in the room when we talk about the Government's partial austerity measures; an elephant that has an insatiable appetite – the EU bailouts.

The bailout is there to fund the failures of EU policy: to pay for their financial failures.

Don't get me wrong; I am appalled by the legacy of waste at home, but the £12.5bn that has been committed by this country to spend on Portugal, Ireland and Greece, makes it impossible to balance the books.

Anybody who is worried about a services being cut or chopped should be aware that the Government is planning a reduction in spending of £20bn – of which over half is already committed to the EU bailouts.



No more of the EU bailouts, no more throwing our money away to Brussels

So more than half of the nigh on 40,000 jobs in Kent could be saved if we were not ensuring that libraries in Athens were kept open!

If you are running a campaign against the cuts, then get in touch at nigel.farage@europarl.europa.eu.

I want to know because the Government needs to be told.

No more EU bailouts, no more throwing our money away to Brussels.

People here in Kent are angry about this, and want their money spent on their own services.

■ Nigel Farage, is the leader of the United Kingdom Independence Party (Ukip) and a South East MEP. He lives in Westerham.

KOS COMMENT

Special needs pupils need school support

IT'S a sad state of affairs whenever any child is expelled from school, but especially if that child has special educational needs.

Through no fault of their own many children find it incredibly tough to succeed in a classroom environment, so it's up to our schools to ensure they are given the right support to enable them to prosper.

It is therefore disappointing to see that so many are throwing in the towel and expelling SEN pupils when government policy is for headteachers to do everything in their power to keep them in education.

Parents and children deserve better.

Red-faced councillors pay the price of failure

WHILE hardly a national scandal, Tory members of Shepway council are the latest to fall foul of strict expenses rules.

Luckily for them they only forgot to hand in a set of forms, but a pretty poor showing nonetheless.

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Herne Bay submitted by Chris Allen

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Frontline not ones to blame

RE: 'WHO was to blame for slump in child services?' KoS, June 5.

May I, in the strongest possible terms, refute the suggestion that social workers are somehow taking the blame for the failings identified in last November's Ofsted inspection.

While there is a desire in some quarters to play the blame game, the absolute focus of those working in children's social care is to make the required improvements and provide the best support to children and families.

Since taking on specialist children's services in late-January, I have been candid about what went wrong and what is required to rebuild and strengthen the service.

At no time have I, nor will I, blame those on the frontline.

They were dealing with a massive rise in referrals and trying to cope with their own work and that of others – using a computer recording system that was not fit for purpose and sometimes working without adequate supervision.

These people need backing not blaming.

I will do all I can to support them as they carry out one of the most challenging jobs in public service.

Cllr Jenny Whittle, cabinet member for specialist children's services, Kent County Council

Pylons cast a great shadow

I DO NOT agree with your view that electricity pylons are a blight. I think they are necessary, useful and functional.

Their form follows their function – to hold up the power cables that allow us to enjoy the benefits of electricity.

Visually, pylons are just one of the many signs on our landscape that we humans have shaped the landscape and will continue to do so.

I think that beauty often arises when our creation's form follows its function and I think a lived-in landscape is more beautiful than a deserted one.

Adrian Pepper, Deal

Speed limits drive me mad

I'M SURE I can't be the only Kent motorist to be concerned about the way the temporary speed limits are applied in the Maidstone variable speed limit zone.

I think I'm right to say there are 11 speed limit/camera gantries in a five-mile section of the M20.

Driving through there around 6pm this half-term week, traffic congestion was noticeably better than usual. Despite the easy traffic flow the speed limits were set at a seemingly random series of 50mph and 60mph.

Can somebody assure me that here is some science behind these limits?

It really feels as though somebody sets them to be as annoying and senseless as possible.

Every night the pattern seems different and I am often faced with an almost empty road in front of 50mph signs, having come through a series of 60s.

John Evans, Ashford

Rural folk not in the picture

I NOTED with some interest rural crime rated two column inches on Page 3 of the latest KoS.

I say 'interest' because many years ago when we began to see the proliferation of cameras in major conurbations, many of us expressed the concern that this would inevitably lead to crime being dispersed to other areas where it was not regarded as viable to have such cameras placed, and this would be exacerbated by the reduction in policing of rural areas.

However, we were told that this would not happen and were even criticised for 'scaremongering'.

This ignored the number one priority of the criminal: 'don't get caught'. They will do whatever is necessary to avoid detection, and if that means shifting their ground to areas where they are least likely to be detected, that's exactly what they'll do.

It's come to pass and yet all we get from the Government is that crime is going down.

It may well be, but that is no consolation to the farmers who are having expensive equipment stolen, or the rural community where a regular police presence is all but non-existent, that experiences an ATM ram-raid on their local supermarket.

Now the situation has become so bad that farmers are contemplating teaming up to employ private security firms to carry out mobile patrols. This is police work, yet police numbers are scheduled to be cut.

All this lack of proper policing is going on while every weekend it can be guaranteed that there will be countless staff employed monitoring cameras in Maidstone, looking for aggressive binge drinkers and police carriers (each with probably at least eight coppers on board) will be parked in convenient side streets waiting for it all to 'kick-off' somewhere in the town. Farmers and rural communities must feel so let down that they have to resort to employing private security to protect them.

Government, both central and local, should resist this obsession with cameras. They have their purpose, but they can't arrest anyone and they cannot be redeployed to other areas, so they are no substitute for 'real policing'.

Christopher Hudson-Gool, Maidstone

I can't Hyde from protest

BARELY a week goes by when I am not receiving a bloodcurdling email from the Manston Airport – No Night Flighters (NNF) or am being accosted by some NNF militant who wants to convert me to their cause.

They repeat the same old mantra: "Airport bad, Charles Buchanan very bad and Infratil, evil power of the universe." Anyone who dares to disagree with them is labelled 'the enemy'.

Most of these objectors have only recently moved to the area. They also tend to be house owners and believe their relatively cheap purchases will rocket in price once the airport is no more.

They invent or embellish facts to 'prove' the airport is the source of Aids, bulimia, beriberi and mad cow disease as well as noise and air pollution. They would have us believe the European and UK airspace authorities have given the airport exclusive permission to fly in dangerous, unairworthy and overloaded aircraft with engines hanging off and wings taped to the fuselage. Every infringement they leap on with gurgling cries of joy.

Many of them either have good jobs in London or generous pensions. Some maintain a pied à terre in Ramsgate. They are unmoved by the job losses that would result from the airport's closure. They claim children are adversely affected by night flights, but care nothing for the children whose parents would be rendered unemployed.

Most of them fly and never give a thought for the people they fly over.

Many of these people are my friends, but once the pavlovian words are uttered – airport, Charles Buchanan, Infratil – Mr Jekyll becomes Mr Hyde.

You cannot debate with them. They heckle you and then haunt your footsteps. Democrats they are not and that, perhaps, sadly defines them.

Gerry O'Donnell , Ramsgate

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Three ways of looking at a taxing problem



TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC

Q IN 1984, my wife and I gave my parents-in-law the money to buy their council house. An agreement was written out that in the event of their deaths, the property would come to us, but we did not receive any rent. My mother-in-law passed away in 2000, and my father-in-law in 2003, so the property was then owned by my wife and myself. We rented it out, but are now considering selling. The tax office has said we will have to pay capital gains tax from the time the property was purchased, but a solicitor has told us tax is due only on any gain since the property came under our names, after my father-in-law died.

A THERE are at least three ways of looking at this. The taxman is clearly taking the view that your parents-in-law were never the real owners of the property – they were just fronting for you and your wife. If so, he believes, tax is due on the rise in the value of the house since it was bought. On the other hand, the solicitor has presumably seen the 1984 agreement and decided that if it really did say that the property would pass to you only at some point in the future, then from 1984 to 2003 it did belong to your parents-in-law. In this case any rise in value is covered by their exemption from gains tax as owner-occupiers. I have not seen the agreement, but I tend to agree with your solicitor. After all, what would have happened if you and your wife had died first? And could your parents-in-law have sold the house without your consent or would the wording of the agreement have allowed you to stop them? The answers to these two questions are important. They would show whether or not you had real, legal rights over the property – and if you did, then the taxman would have a stronger case. Now for the third option, which involves going back to the law as it was in 1984. Then, if someone provided a rent-free home for a dependent relative, the property escaped gains tax. The relative did not have to be financially dependent, just infirm, over 65 or even over 55 and unable to work. This exemption was scrapped in 1988, except for anyone already entitled to it. The chances are that the taxman does not even know about a law that was abolished 23 years ago. So go back to your solicitor and get him to claim this exemption on your behalf.

Q I HAVE some gold, including a 100g ingot (about three-and-a-half ounces), but I have been given different quotes by dealers if I sell to them. What I really want is to know how much the person who would then buy the gold from the dealer would pay. Any ideas?

A AS I write gold is trading on the international bullion markets at about $1,545 per ounce, but dealers can offer you whatever they wish, and they can sell your gold on at whatever price the buyer is willing to pay. There is no official price that everyone must use. The only way you can sidestep the dealers is to advertise the gold yourself and find your own buyer, or perhaps auction it on eBay. However, the gold market is pretty competitive. I suspect you will still find that professional dealers offer more than ordinary buyers, as long as you avoid the sharks who sometimes advertise for 'unwanted' gold and pay far less than the real value.

Q ON MARCH 5, I was unfortunate enough to skid on some diesel and the car turned upside down. The insurance company offered £7,100 and I accepted, but now my letters and emails are ignored. Telephone calls are always met with 'the cheque is in the post', but of course it isn't. How can I be sure I am still insured, and how do I stand if I reinsure with another firm?

A YOU gave me the name of the company, but as there are several with very similar names I am not going to print it for fear of criticising the wrong one. So call the Financial Services Authority (0845 606 1234) and check that the insurer is still licensed. If so, and you still have an insurance certificate, you are still covered and have no need to pay for protection all over again with a different firm. Enlist the help of the Financial Ombudsman (0800 023 4567) to get your £7,100. Supply a copy of the offer from the company and explain that you accepted, but heard nothing more. The ombudsman will then order the company to pay, and you may even get a bit extra for the delay and inconvenience.

Q I SHALL reach 65 shortly. In the 1960s I worked for a company that later ceased trading. I paid into its pension scheme for about three years. Is there any way of claiming on this?

A The Government's Pension Tracing Service (0845 6002 537) has files on lots of old businesses and can help you track down any pension still owed to you.

■ **If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.**

It's time to perk up your pension

By Adam Aiken
MyMoney 24 editor

THE cost of a cup of coffee a day is all that stands between many workers' savings habits and a comfortable retirement.

The financial difficulties facing the retirees of the future have been laid bare in a report finding that half of people aged more than 30 are making insufficient provision for their futures.

The annual UK Pensions Report, produced by Scottish Widows, also found that a fifth of people are failing to make any financial plans for their retirement at all.

But an average extra contribution of just £58 a month could make all the difference for people who are currently on course to fall short with their pension saving.

The report, based partly on the Scottish Widows Pensions Index, found that only 51pc of people were making sufficient retirement provisions.

When those with final-salary schemes – of which almost all are now closed to new members – are excluded from the figures, the number of people making adequate financial plans falls to about 25pc.

These findings came despite the fact that nearly three in four people say they are aware of the need to take personal responsibility for their own futures.

The report is also partly based on the Scottish Widows Average Savings Ratio which tracks the percentage of income being saved for retirement by workers not expecting to get their main retirement income from final salary pensions.

The company reckons people should be saving about 12pc of their salaries, but the average person is putting aside only 9pc.

"This year's report clearly illustrates the stark difficulty we face in helping people to recognise the urgent need to take personal responsibility for their futures," said Ian Naismith, head of pensions market development for Scottish Widows.

"We need a step-change to overcome this ingrained inertia and help people prepare for their retirement."

According to the report, people hope to be receiving an average income of £24,300 by the time they turn 70.

But even though the survey's respondents claim to be able to save an additional £97 a month, they are failing to do so, meaning many people will fall short of their desired annual income during retirement.

"Put simply, people need to save an extra £58 a month on average to prepare adequately for retirement and make up the shortfall we are seeing currently.

"That is roughly the cost of a cup of coffee every day," said Mr Naismith.

"Even though, for many, this is realistic – and is in under the average £97.10 a month people say they can afford – we appreciate the difficulty in setting aside extra money.

"It's about breaking through that inertia. For some, the amount that needs to be saved will be higher but it's about taking small steps, getting on to the savings ladder and, more importantly, staying on it."



DON'T LEAVE IT TOO LATTÉ: The price of a cup of coffee a day is all that stands between many people and a better financial future when the time comes to retire

Two thirds of income is eaten up by debt

ONE OF the country's leading debt charities has lifted the lid on the struggles of its clients, revealing that nearly two thirds of a typical client's income is taken for debt repayments.

Based on a 37.5-hour week, working from 9am to 5pm, the Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS) said the average person who approaches it for help needs to work until 4pm on Wednesday in order to earn enough to repay their unsecured debts.

It is only then that they can start earning money for basic living costs, including their mortgage.

The CCCS said the average person who contacted the charity last year owed nearly £22,500 on credit cards, personal loans, overdrafts and other types of unsecured debt, with typical monthly repayment bills of £675. That represents 58pc of the average client's take-home earnings of £1,173 a month.

Delroy Corinaldi, external affairs director at the CCCS said: "Our advice to anyone struggling to cope with their repayments is to seek free advice as early as possible."

The organisation was contacted by 418,000 people in 2010.

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LOAN BOOST: Whatever you need it for, a personal loan can help make life that little bit better – and now the market is getting more competitive

Hot new deals on offer if you're looking for a loan

By Adam Aiken
MyMoney 24 editor

THE personal loans market has been hotting up, with at least two new leading deals launched during the past few days.

Barclays took the initiative when it announced a rate of 6.9pc to people who have current accounts with the bank and who want to borrow between £15,000 and £25,000.

That product was the second-lowest on offer at the time, behind a deal from Sainsbury's Finance.

But Nationwide Building Society quickly eclipsed both Barclays and Sainsbury's when it launched a rate of 6.7pc for loans between £7,500 and £15,000.

Like Barclays' offering, the Nationwide deal is available only to the society's current account customers. However, there is also a competitive rate of 6.8pc available to non-Nationwide customers.

Michelle Slade, a market expert at Moneyfacts.co.uk, said the developments reflected a fall in the chances of customers defaulting on their borrowing.

"When people's financial commitments get too much the first thing they forgo is their unsecured borrowing such as personal loans. They prefer to maintain their secured commitments, such as mortgages," she said.

"As the financial crisis hit, the risk of customers defaulting on loans increased and this increased risk was passed on to customers through higher rates. Although lenders were still offering loans, they did not actively seek to lend and the personal loan market became stagnant.

"However, since the start of the year competition has returned to the personal loan market and rates on selected tiers have started to fall."

Miss Slade said there had been a growing trend for lenders to offer loans only to their existing customers because they were known entities and it was easier to predict how they would manage their debts. But she said customers should not assume that their existing banks or building societies would offer the best deals.

For example, although Barclays is a market-leader for loans of between £15,000-25,000, an existing customer would typically be charged 19.9pc for a Barclayloan of £7,500 – nearly three times the rate on offer to non-customers at Nationwide.

Barclays customers borrowing £7,500 over five years at 19.9pc from their bank would repay a total of £11,528. As non-customers at Nationwide, however, a rate of 6.8pc would involve repayments of only £8,825.

"A lender may be the most competitive for one loan amount but may be less competitive on a different tier," said Miss Slade.

"Consumers need to ensure they are comparing rates for the amounts they need to borrow."

Many wealthy people wish they had more financial discipline

BEING very rich and having great financial discipline do not automatically go hand in hand, with many high net-worth people admitting they wished they had better self-control when it came to their money.

A study of wealthy individuals has found that a third of those based in the UK would like to have more self-discipline – and this desire increases as people get richer, according to the report by Barclays Wealth.

On a global basis, the need for increased financial discipline is likely to be felt most by those whose net-worth is £10 million or more. Nearly half of all people in this category said they wanted more self-control.

Meanwhile, investors who use a strategy when it comes to investing rather than simply relying on their emotions can reap the rewards.

The survey found that those who have a 'high strategy usage' are typically wealthier than those who do not follow rules.

Simon Smith, of Barclays Wealth, said: "As well as being prepared to take risks to pursue gains, there is a desire for more control, which presents an interesting challenge.

"Clearly, more needs to be done to help clients understand their financial personality and the benefits of using financial self-control strategies."

PICK OF THE WEEK

In association with the experts at Moneyfacts.co.uk, we highlight some of the best new products launched this week.

Savings: Coventry Building Society
Coventry Building Society has launched its eNotice (2) account. This online-only deal pays an annual rate of 3.05pc, including a bonus of 0.5pc for 12 months. The gross rate is guaranteed to be at least 3.05pc until March, 2012. A monthly-interest option is available at 3.01pc. Savers can invest between £1,000 and £250,000.
Advance notice of 30 days must be given to access funds; investors who access funds early will incur a 30-day loss-of-interest penalty. All withdrawals must be made via a nominated account or transferred to another Coventry account. It can be operated by savers aged 16 and over.

Why is it good? This latest issue of the popular eNotice account sits just below the current market-leading 30-day notice account.
The fact that the rate is guaranteed to be at least equal to 3.05pc until the end of March next year will no doubt add to its overall appeal.

Savings: Post Office
The one-year Online Bond Issue 4 pays 3.35pc on maturity, with a monthly interest rate of 3.3pc. Investments between £500 and £2m can be made, but further additions are not permitted. Early access is allowed but on account closure only and is subject to a breakage fee. This online-only account is available to savers aged 18 and over.

Why is it good? At 3.35pc, this online bond rate is among the market leaders in its field. The account offers flexibility to savers who wish to access funds early, although this will be subject to an interest penalty.

Mortgages:
Yorkshire Building Society
Yorkshire Building Society has withdrawn and replaced some of its variable tracker rates including a new three-year tracker deal at 2.29pc (Bank of England base rate plus 1.79pc) to June 2014.
The maximum loan-to-value is 75pc and customers can borrow a minimum of £25,001. A fee of £995 is payable. There is also the option to make overpayments, make underpayments and take payment holidays.

Why is it good? This new deal has stormed to the top of the three-year tracker-rate market. Available to first-time, second-time and remortgage customers borrowing up to 75pc of a property's value, this product has a reasonably low fee and offers customers a host of flexible features, such as the option to make overpayments up to 10pc of the outstanding balance.

moneyfacts.co.uk



Pictured above: Dover Exhibition Conference Hall

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EDITOR'S VIEW...

LUXURY ice-cream producer Sally Newall is looking to take her Simply brand to the next stage by selling her desserts nationwide. The company has come a long way since its 2006 inception, when batches were made in Mrs Newall's kitchen, an impressive story in its own right. What makes it all the more impressive is Mrs Newall's self-sustainable business ethos, which, while it hindered growth, effectively eliminated risk.

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Slowdown in jobs market could impact on economy

By Simon Robinson
simon.robinson@arcahnt.co.uk

THE UK labour market is at risk of coming to a standstill, a new report has suggested.

The Recruitment And Employment Confederation (REC) and KPMG Report On Jobs found permanent and temporary staff appointments both rose at the weakest rate in seven months.

It is feared that the May data – provided by recruitment consultancies – is indicative of a stalling market, with employers unable or unwilling to invest in growth.

REC chief executive Kevin Green said: "The latest data show a worrying deceleration in the UK jobs market. Although the number of placements has continued to increase, the rate of expansion has hit a seven-month low.

"Private-sector job creation has not hit the buffers, but it is clearly slowing, which heightens concerns over whether public-sector job losses can be absorbed.

"There have been signs of increasing employer confidence in some sectors, but economic growth remains too fragile to spark the real step-change that our jobs market needs.

"With consumer confidence at a low ebb, many individuals who would normally be looking to change jobs are staying put.

"The feedback from recruitment professionals confirms a real paradox in the current jobs market, namely the ongoing challenge of finding suitable candidates in a number of sectors.



SIGN OF THE TIME: A new report shows signs that the UK job market is in danger of coming to a standstill

"With the Government's much-discussed Work Programme formally getting under way this month, the question now is whether it will be able to deliver the training and guidance necessary to address the current disconnect between employer needs and available candidates.

"Looking ahead, the mismatch between vacancies and skills available could hinder future growth."

KPMG partner and head of business services Bernard Brown said: "The latest figures are worrying – because they reveal a marked slow-down of the UK jobs market. We'll need to see whether this is a trend or a blip.

"Employers across all sectors are becoming more cautious about hiring new staff.

"With businesses and consumers now being hit by higher taxes and fuel costs, public-spending cuts and a continuing squeeze on real incomes, this is perhaps no surprise.

"The hope now is that growth in the UK will pick up later this year, led by a private-sector recovery absorbing job losses in the public sector."

Peter Newey, managing director of the Farrer Barnes recruitment consultancy in Canterbury, said the Kent picture was rosier than the national outlook.

"Although I accept these conclusions as a reflection of the overall market, countrywide we speak to a lot of influential decision-makers throughout the region and the message we are hearing time and again is generally a little more optimistic," he said.

"As a business we appear to be close to the start of the economic cycle and my instinct is that things are improving – albeit at a slow and steady rate. Having said that, I do believe that the economy is at a crucial stage – a point backed up by the current split within the monetary policy committee – but given the last couple of years I believe that the recruitment industry will look back on 2011 with a degree of contentment."

ENERGY

Eco-activities will be backed by KCC

KENT County Council bosses have pledged to provide public-sector support to low-carbon and green energy projects across the county.

The backing was made at an eco-energy event at East Malling Conference Centre.

Opening the one-day conference, KCC leader Paul Carter said: "This is one of a number of conversations we are having to consider what the public sector can do to help and support your industries to thrive."

More than 80 delegates attended the event, during which offshore wind farms, biofuels and other green projects were discussed.

KCC economic development boss Kevin Lynes said: "This event has demonstrated how many leading-edge businesses in this sector we have in Kent. This is a brand new industry with superb growth opportunities and we are right on the groundfloor of it. We need to help build on the recent successes and make Kent the place of choice for the renewable-energy industry."



EYES ON THE PRIZE: Aron Baker

APPRENTICESHIPS

Winning title would add gloss for Aron

INTERIOR designer Aron Baker is hoping for a nice finish after reaching the finals of Dulux's apprentice-of-the-year competition.

The 19-year-old, who trains at North West Kent College in Gravesend, has come through nine heats to reach the finals, held in Wales next week.

Apprentices will be given tasks across two days, testing their wallpapering, stencilling and special-effects skills.

His tutor, Phil Jubb, said: "I am really proud of what Aron has achieved. I hope it inspires other young people, helps to raise the profile of our trade and demonstrates that you need good training to reach these heights."

Dulux's Peter Doyle said: "Both the recognition that comes with winning this competition, which can really help to start a career for any up-and-coming painter and decorator, and the £1,000 prize on offer are great reasons to enter."

HEALTH

Stressed workers eye benefits perks

MORE than half of all South East employees are more stressed than they were a year ago, a new study suggests.

The research, by Sovereign Health Care, found that 53 per cent of respondents were feeling extra pressure, while a third said they had become ill from work-related stress.

The recession was blamed for the increase – having led to greater workloads and increased pressure.

Sovereign's chief executive Russ Piper said: "It appears that while pay has remained frozen, employee workloads have increased. This unrewarded extra work can lead to low morale and employee discontent.

"It would be prudent for businesses to recognise this and consider cost-effective ways to counter this and add value to their own workplace. One way of achieving this is through health-related employee benefits."

Almost half of those questioned said they would change employer in return for a better benefits package – even if their salary remained the same.

COMMENT

SOTA Solutions wants businesses to think about how reliant they are on their IT system and, more importantly, what they would do if their service was disrupted by a disaster such as a fire or a flood.

The Kent Science Park company is confident that in the vast majority of cases, particularly in the SME market, the answer would be 'practically grind to a halt'.

Sota has built a Disaster Recovery facility at its Sittingbourne base to accommodate any firm that wants to keep working while its offices are rebuilt, dried out or otherwise.

Of course, it can take something as innocuous as a misplaced road-digging crew to bring a business to its knees by scooping through its electricity cables.

Which begs the question, how have we allowed ourselves to operate without a back-up business-continuity plan? For a small annual fee, companies get peace of mind in knowing that they have a state-of-the-art office on standby at a central Kent location. Clients can take as few as just five work stations and up to the 100-station capacity.

This office insurance was once of sole interest to high-end businesses such as banks and insurers. But as more and more firms become reliant on their e-business, it seems a savvy move by Sota to open it up to SMEs.

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"How have we allowed ourselves to operate without a back-up business continuity plan?



Toby lands himself in a pickle with new project

AS far as clear career progressions go, the move from London design agency boss to one-man home-made pickle-producer is among the most obscure.

But Toby Hotchkiss's bold move, which has taken him from London to the Kent coast, seems to be paying off.

The 43-year-old's firm – Whitstable Pickle Company – has made its first sales, begun taking orders online and expanded its range.

Hotchkiss said the career change came about as a result of his penchant for giving his home-made pickles and chutneys as Christmas presents.

"I fell out of love with being a designer and decided it was time for a change, so I closed down my agency and starting thinking about alternatives," he said.

"I had never really thought about pickling as a business, but so many people were complimentary about what I made that I decided to give it a try."

Having settled on the Whitstable Pickle Company name, he designed his own label and started work on his first product, a fig-and-plum chutney.

It was not long before his first order was secured.

Hotchkiss said: "I was determined to use only fresh, high-quality products and to source them locally where possible. I buy the majority of my fruit and vegetables from Mark at Granny Smiths, in Whitstable.



SPICING UP THINGS: Jayne Cooke of Barclays has been on hand to support Toby Hotchkiss in his chutney business

"It was a great feeling when I made my first sale – 30 jars of the fig-and-plum chutney to the Cheese Box in Harbour Street."

The pickler keeps his costs down by making all his produce at home in Victoria Street, but with the initial costs of stocks of vinegar, produce, jars and labels he needed the support of a bank to get the business established.

He spoke to Barclays, which provided a business account and to his surprise also agreed a business loan.

"Jayne Cooke at Barclays in Canterbury was very helpful indeed," he said.

"She guided me through the process and, considering all the publicity around banks not lending, I was surprised to find they were willing to show confidence in me and my business."

The Barclays Business manager added: "Toby had an excellent business plan and although he has no direct experience in the industry he has a niche product and a ready market and has personally backed the business by investing his own money.

"It has been a pleasure working with him and I am certainly a fan of his pickles. We are very much open for business and looking to support entrepreneurs."

See www.whitstablepickles.co.uk.

Invention is on the nose for safety

A RACEHORSE-trainer's simple safety-clip invention has proved so successful at an unveiling event that two rival international firms immediately began jockeying to handle it.

Martin Smith launched his Equi-ping product at the BETA International Show in Birmingham, the world's leading equine-trader exhibition, where it won an innovation award.

The device, which prevents horses from hurting themselves when they are tied up, was hailed by judges as "a small device that could have a big impact on safety and security when tying up horses and ponies".





Distributors in the United States and Australia quickly came forward to register an interest in selling it.

Smith, who works at the John Best racing stables in Hucking, near Maidstone, said: "I thought it was a solid idea but have been staggered by the response.

"We were working round the clock to satisfy the initial demand and, now we have distributors for America, the potential is enormous.

"When we first showed it at the fair in Birmingham we were surprised by the interest from abroad and we ended up in the wonderful position of rival distributors bidding to handle it for us."

Equi-ping is now being sold across Europe, the United States, Australia and the Middle East.

Exercise your brain in the art of selling

A MIND-gym has been set up at Kent Science Park to help overcome the blocks often associated with selling.

The training is being offered by sales trainer Paul Routley and business-performance specialist Graham Williams.

Routley says the two sessions on offer are unique and will lead to results. "The workshops at Kent Science Park are very different from the boring sales training seminars people are used to," he said. "By combining performance training with sales training we're helping people to change their mindset and their feelings about selling, rather than focusing on trying to make them better at doing something they don't particularly enjoy.

"It's really remarkable how quickly, and how profoundly, this shift in attitude can be achieved and the difference in results that follows.

Williams said: "Mind fitness is all about training yourself to consistently operate at 100 per cent. It allows individuals to be as good as they possibly can be and, as a result, to achieve substantially improved results.

"It also helps people to overcome a 'can't do' or a 'won't do' attitude to selling, which has a remarkable impact."

The events will be on Wednesdays, July 6 and September 7, from 8.30am to 10.30am. To book a place, email jen.francis@ksp-uk.com.



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Kent Business School

Ice cream making a cool profit

The BIG Interview



Business editor **Simon Robinson** talks to intrepid entrepreneur and mum-of-four Sally Newall, who is aiming to take her Simply Ice Cream brand to a national audience after success which has seen the company double its turnover year on year since it started in her kitchen in 2005

SIMPLY Ice Cream is, on the one hand, the very epitome of the cottage industry. For a start, it is literally a 'cottage' item – produced in one half of a large family home in the heart of rural Kent – and competes with the cold-hearted, dull steel machinery, industrial warehouse industry leaders by utilising its luxury, homemade, local-produce angle.

But on the other hand, labelling the Bonnington firm in such a way does owner Sally Newall and her small team a disservice; for this is no small-scale, side-project operation.

The company has doubled turnover every year since 2006 and is now stocked in 240 outlets across the region and a further 40 Waitrose branches.

Mrs Newall also has plans to take the brand to a national audience as well as team up with online retailer Ocado.

At her home-cum-ice-cream factory near Ashford, the mother-of-four explained how Simply came about and her attitude to growing it.

She said: "I trained as a chef and moved to Australia to work for five years. My mother set up a catering business in 1984 and when I came back her partner wanted to retire, so I took over.

"Our clients began to ask where they could buy our ice cream and so we slowly started to formulate a business model and a route to market."

The first batch of Simply Ice Cream went on sale at Potten farm shop, Sellindge, in October 2005. After this six-month trial period proved successful, the company moved into a further five farm shops the following year.

Simply picked up a Quality Food Award in 2007 and gained huge exposure when TV chef James Martin featured its product on the morning cookery show Saturday Kitchen, declaring it to be 'the best-bought ice cream available'.

Mrs Newall said: "We were still making the ice cream in my kitchen, producing between the hours of 9pm and 1am after we'd put the kids to bed.

"But at that point, interest in us began to stretch further, across the South East, up to London and beyond, and so we thought 'Let's go for it'.

"In 2009 we went into another 70 outlets in the region as well as Waitrose – 15 outlets to begin with and an additional 25 by Christmas that year."

The producer's dual role as entrepreneur and mother seems to have moulded her business temperament.

While she is clearly proud of her range of products and keen to take it to the next stage, maintaining the right family balance is of equal concern.

"The fact I've got four children is one of the most important things to me – I've got to make sure they are happy first and foremost, so working from home enables me to be here for them, but I also need to be aware that I don't jeopardise our home and future in any way. For that reason we've ensured the business is self-sustainable.

"We started up quite slowly with the mantra 'If we can't afford to do it we don't do it', which has probably inhibited how fast we've grown, but I'd rather have consolidated and fulfilled orders before moving on to the next level.

"To date it's worked. We have not had any moments where we've thought 'We can't do this'. And because we've got a strong business without any loans we have not got any real risks."

Growth has been consistent. The business, with its kitchen moonlighting beginnings, has been transferred into a converted ice-cream factory in the family home.

This investment was made after Mrs Newall's painstaking trial and feedback procedure had given her confidence that she could compete with the big boys.

"When we began to concentrate on the business in 2008 there were 1,200 ice-cream manufacturers in England alone, not counting those in Scotland and Wales.

"The market is fiercely competitive, so when we decided to launch our ice cream proper we knew we had to keep it luxurious, as it had been at our catering parties. If we had diluted our ingredients we would have been just like everyone else and gone against our original ethos of making handmade ice cream from natural ingredients.

"I think it was really important for us to keep with that idea. It would be very easy for us now to start making ice cream with emulsifiers, glucose, fructose or guar gum to make it more scoopable and easier to manage, but if we did that we would just be like everyone else. We've stuck with what we started with."



TUBS OF SUCCESS: Simply Ice Cream is thriving in a competitive market which had 1,200 manufacturers in England alone in 2008

This cautious approach to the market has seemingly paid off for Simply, with brand awareness on the up and perceived brand value remaining high.

Mrs Newall said: "We have built up a high level of consumer loyalty. A lot of our customers say once they had tried our ice cream nothing else matches it, which is lovely to hear.

"When you start a business, and especially if you're making something, it's all well and good for friends and family to say it's a great product, but it's crucial to get feedback from people you don't know.

"The trial period was so important because had we gone into a farm shop and it hadn't worked we would not have pursued it – even if we felt the product was good.

"If the consumers hadn't bought it, there would have been no point in carrying on with it. It was only because the consumers' feedback was good that we were spurred on."

Having tasted huge success with her ice-cream business, and apparently on the verge of even more, Mrs Newall's only tinge of regret is that the company was not the family-bonder she had hoped it would be.

"The catering business was taking up all of our weekends, what with weddings and functions of that nature," she said.

"As our children got a bit older they were saying 'We never see you on weekends' and so I thought if I sell ice cream during the week we can stop the catering business and get our weekends back.

"Of course, this was incredibly naïve, as we're still doing the catering side and now we're attending weekend food-trade shows across the region as well.

"I'm probably working harder now than I've ever worked."



TASTE DIVINE: Only natural ingredients go into Simply Ice Cream's range; emulsifiers are not used to make it easier for a diner to scoop



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EMPLOYMENT

Estate agents launch job site

NATIONAL estate-agency brand Your Move has launched a dedicated careers website to support the firm's latest recruitment drive.

The site – which currently has 75 positions available – also provides testimonials from staff and outlines potential job roles on offer, with the aim being to give visitors a more comprehensive understanding of what it might be like to work for the company.

Area sales manager Jackie Davies said she was delighted Your Move was bucking the trend of cutbacks by expanding the business.

"It's great that, despite the challenges of the current market, we are now actively recruiting more staff," she said.

"A sign, we believe, of its ongoing success and our sheer determination to remain one of the best in the business.

"With Your Move staff retention also being high, we would say it's a career path certainly worth considering."

For more information, visit www.propertyjobs.your-move.co.uk.

GROWTH

Awards reward pioneering firms

UP-and-coming firms are invited to enter the Fast Growth Business Awards.

The competition, which rewards the most pioneering businesses that demonstrate significant growth and entrepreneurial flair, is open to any UK business that has been trading for at least two years and has fewer than 500 employees.

Winners will be picked out by high-calibre entrepreneurs, including Richard Reed, behind Innocent drinks, and James Averdieck, of Gü Puds.

Growing Business's Ian Wallis said previous award-winners had gone on to enjoy huge success.

"The Fast Growth Business Awards never disappoint in terms of the ingenuity, ambition and hard graft of the companies that enter," he said. "The awards have a fantastic track record of picking out brands on the cusp of great things."

See www.growingbusiness.co.uk/fast-growth-business-awards.

EXPORTS

Rise reflects resurgence

TRADEMARK attorney Brookes Batchellor has registered a record increase in the amount of successful applications it has filed to protect the brands of South East companies.

The Tunbridge Wells business saw the number of Community Trademarks – which protect the brand across the European Union – filed in 2010 increase by 134 per cent.

This meteoric rise placed the firm at the top of the Institute of Trademark Attorneys annual league table when placed against comparable companies.

Brookes Batchellor's Jane Martin said: "It's great to have ranked so highly on this list not just because it records the fact that 2010 was a particularly good year for us, but because it means our clients – many of them local companies from Kent, Sussex and Surrey – are planning to expand and exploit their intellectual property on a European scale."

The firm specialises in protecting brands across the world.

Mixed opinions as inflation still rises



THE pressure on the Bank of England is seemingly linked with inflation – high and rising.

With inflation hitting 4.5 per cent last month – more than double the Government's 2 per cent target – there has been an increasing amount of calls from the City and wider business community to bring it into line by raising interest rates.

This strategy has gained extra backing as the months have gone by, during which time inflation has rocketed.

Members of the Bank's nine-man Monetary Policy Committee are also in favour of such a move but have so far been outvoted by their peers.

So should the Bank hold firm with its record low interest rates, assuming that inflation will head towards the 2 per cent target in due course? Or is action needed now? Business Week asked Kent firms for their views...

■ Priory Business Group director Bob Pitman said: "It only seems a short time ago that our substantial cash deposits were producing a healthy income in their own right.

"Sadly, they are now earning so little interest that any opportunity that presents itself to gain commercial advantage from them is taken. This is, of course, exactly what the country needs – cash put into the economy, not stashed away.

"Much of the prevailing inflationary pressures are beyond our direct control. Energy prices will continue to rise irrespective of local duties. I believe the current tack needs to be maintained at least until the end of the year."

■ Bizezia managing director Martin Pollins said: "The base rate has been 0.5 per cent since March 2009.

"The gap between base rate [0.5 per cent] and actual interest charged [average more than 12 per cent] is now more than 11.5 per cent or 23 times base rate.

"If you go back to August 2007 – the recognised start of the credit crunch – base rate was 5.75 per cent, but actual rates being charged were 8.6 per cent – a gap of only 2.85 per cent or about half of base rate. Today lenders want a profit margin of 11.5 per cent, whereas before the credit crunch they managed comfortably on 2.85 per cent.

"How banks can use base rate as a weapon to pay so little on deposits while taking advantage of borrowers is beyond comprehension."

■ Castle Corporate Finance director Mike Norrie said: "Inflation is fed by higher commodity prices – imports, not consumer demand. Increased interest rates should boost sterling and make imports cheaper – lower inflation.

"The cost of an interest rate rise is relative. Banks have been increasing their margins on loans. A commercial debt fixed at 5.5 per cent above base will actually give an 8 per cent increase where base rate is increased to 1 per cent.

"For many UK businesses, reductions in costs and inflation would make the increase in debt costs worthwhile.

"Businesses and consumers have spent three years reducing debt – the focus now is on building economic stability. So, reluctantly, a small increase."

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A SERIES of leadership and management training courses is being offered to business bosses across the county.

The interactive and practical sessions will focus on improving financial performance, staff management and innovation.



John Telfer, managing director of IBP, right, which is running the events, said: "These courses will be as flexible as possible in terms of content, enabling attendees to present real-life problems to the course leaders."

The workshops will all be held at the event centre at the County Showground, Detling.

All of the courses can be accessed with the help of Government funding through the leadership and management skills training grant, which can provide up to £1,000 in match-funding.

Mr Telfer urged businesses to sign up.

"Unfortunately, people tend to cut training budgets in this kind of economic climate, but it is important to invest in your staff to ensure future success," he said. "With funding available, it makes sense to find new, cost-effective ways of increasing efficiency, profitability and growth."

For more on the courses, visit www.IBPcourses.co.uk, email events@bestbusinessevents.co.uk, or phone 0845 3083338.

COURSES

How to manage people effectively
Monday, July 4

How to achieve significant business success using the balanced scorecard
Tuesday, July 26

How to lead and motivate for business success
Monday, August 1

How to improve the financial performance of your business and your team
Wednesday, August 3

How you can make your business more innovative and creative through yourself and your people
Tuesday, August 16



Regain control over who reads your email

ONLINE expert myTsafe is urging companies to take email security seriously.

The Faversham firm wants businesses to guard their online actions as tightly as they would their bank account or passport details.

The message comes after a rise in cyber-crime, with crimes relating to email and web-based security now estimated to cost UK business more than £27 million per year.

And with more and more businesses choosing to send sensitive information via email, myTsafe set to work on finding a cost-effective way to make it secure.

The firm's myTsafe system, developed over a five-year period, provides users with secure online storage for their documents and a range of additional safety features.

Managing director Gulliver Immink said there was a real need for the product, which operates out of The Bunker, a military-grade nuclear bunker and secure data-site near Sandwich.

"Mobile phones, laptops and memory sticks carry huge amounts of information – email is everywhere," he said.

"But people lose things, information goes walkabout, email is not secure at all, and the consequences of information getting into the wrong hands can be dire.

"We more and more frequently read of Government departments, the police, MOD and many others losing vital information because disks, laptops or memory sticks are 'lost in the post' or just go missing.

"We don't hear very often about the ordinary person, though, or even smaller businesses who have exactly the same problems, but they are being increasingly affected on a daily basis and it is costing thousands in lost revenues and costs."

For further information, email Gulliver.immink@mytsafe.com.



BE SECURE: Do you know who else is reading your electronic data?

KEY SERVICES

The Postbox
Ultra secure e-posting direct into somebody's account.

A simple, instant and secure way of placing a document or photo directly into somebody's (or even your own) myTsafe account. It avoids the inherent insecurity of email completely.

When you have posted it you know the recipient has received it and it cannot wander about or be intercepted, redirected or picked up by somebody other than the person for whom it was intended.

Reminder system
Tells you by email when a document needs to be looked at because you put a review date against it.

myTsafe Central
This account is open to multiple users.

It enables any group of people working or acting together in some way to store information in one place with all the same features of security, accessibility and communication as myTsafe.

These could be people working together but in different businesses or, say, a sports club.

Be friendly and make the most of the networks

WITH an estimated 865 million users on social media sites, it's more important than ever for businesses to work with these free tools to engage such a large potential audience.



Laura Jones, of MCM Net (www.mcmnet.co.uk), has some simple tips that can help you grow your social presence, increase brand awareness and get your company talked about.

1. It's a two-way conversation
Avoid pitfalls such as sending out self-promoting messages and instead provide content to engage your audience. Ask questions, retweet on Twitter and comment on topics in your industry. Opt for communication with your target market rather than hard-selling if you want to keep 'followers' and 'likes' on the increase.

2. Company pages
Set up a company profile on Facebook and LinkedIn. There are sections to enter the services you offer, to upload images and to get others to recommend your work. It's free, easy and often appears on a Google search. Even if you just put up a team photo, it's worth the effort.

3. Get interactive
Major corporations such as Starbucks incorporate videos, blog posts and photos. Their success is not down to luck. Offer a visually exciting space, and users are more likely to feedback to you.

4. Provide value
If it's feasible, offer a prize or proposition for your audience. Examples include a free website appraisal for the 100th follower or a free goodie bag for the first 'like' on Facebook. Offering something different to your competitors will get you heard.

5. Different strokes
It's important to remember that each social network is different. For example, LinkedIn is mainly a network for business relationships, while Twitter is generally more informal. Try to tailor your posts to suit the arena you are placing it in – and you'll probably get a better response.

6. Stay aware
Of course, there are hundreds of social networks, and the ones mentioned only scratch the surface of the industry. It's worth looking into a few lesser-known networks such as Diggit and Reddit, too, if you're keen to get mentioned more in online searches.

Are you prepared for a technological disaster?

IN these hi-tech times it takes significantly less than a full-blown act of God to bring a business's productivity to a complete halt.

A once-seemingly trivial internet connection problem or computer system error is now as potentially damaging to a company's ability to work as a full-blown fire or flood.

Which is why Sota Solutions is urging SMEs across the county to consider their business-continuity contingency plans.

The firm has recently opened a 100-seat back-up office at its Kent Science Park base.

The disaster recovery (DR) facility – also known as workplace recovery – is available to businesses on packages as small as just five seats and enables customers to continue their working operations should the need arise.

Sota Solutions managing director Paul Cowham said this service was not available to SMEs anywhere else across Kent.

"It's completely unique," he said. "There is very limited commercial workplace recovery in the region full stop. So the fact we're opening that up to the lower end of the market – that's unique.

"SMEs have not been offered workplace recovery in the past at all, whereas the high end of the market is well established.

"Small businesses have been focusing on getting their IT operational and have not necessarily thought about how reliant they have become on it and what they would do if for some reason they no longer had access to their computers and data.

"It's an educational process for us now to make businesses aware of the risks they are taking and what they can do to avoid those risks."

The DR facility is housed in the same building as Sota's third on-site data centre, fitted out last year at a cost of £1.5 million.

Businesses can store their back-up information in the hi-spec facility, an offer that Mr Cowham says goes hand-in-hand with DR services.

"It's a naturally-connected concept," he said. "If a client is looking to locate its back-up infrastructure in data centre, they are going to be interested in the concept of workplace recovery as well – and vice versa.

"Being in the same location, there are obvious benefits, particularly with reference to connectivity.

"You could have an office anywhere in the countryside as your standby office, but if the connectivity is not right there's no point moving there."

Sota Solutions began trading as an accountancy software company, before customer demand for associated hardware saw it move into the engineering side of the IT industry.

The firm grew through the 1990s before finally offering a complete IT service – from data storage through to a total IT solution.

Sota's first data centre, built at the behest of a broadband internet provider in exchange for building a new node at KSP, proved popular with technology-minded customers looking to protect their information.

Rack space in the second facility was expected to take five years to fill. It was full in just two years. The third centre, which opened three months ago, is already 10 per cent full and that figure is expected to rise to a quarter by the end of the year. The DR side is at 25 per cent of capacity.

Visit www.sota.co.uk for more information on the facilities.

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**



The chef putting the great into pub grub

Richard Phillips talks to **Ed Hill** about his latest challenge – taking charge of a seafront hostelry

RICHARD Phillips has created some of the best restaurants in Kent. His first venture, Thackeray's in Tunbridge Wells, won a Michelin star and his other restaurants have been praised equally.

For his latest project he has moved away from fine dining into the world of the local boozer.

He said: "I knew I could deliver with my experience. I just needed to bring that to a pub."

Phillips and his team took over the Pearson's Arms, Whitstable, in December 2010. Its location right on the seafront of the trendy town has to be one of the best in the county. However, the reputation of its food has over the years, like the nearby tides, ebbed and flowed.

Phillips said: "I used to bring my children to Whitstable for a day out and always knew it was a nice place. I wanted to re-create a traditional English pub but with a really good atmosphere and a bit of everything: great beers, great wines and a great dining experience."

The chef, who has appeared on TV shows like Ready Steady Cook, wanted the character to be informal but with no drop in quality and, despite its seaside locality, he was also keen not limit the menu to seafood.

He said: "We are not a nation that just lives on seafood. Because of our great meat and other produce, we can eat a whole range. In winter we like slow-cooked and warming foods. In the summer we want something different.

TAKING OVER THE PUB: The team, from left: head chef Cameron Maclean, manager Jamie Evans and Richard Phillips

"I wanted to cook traditional dishes but executed superbly. We are just a few yards from the sea, but I am also just a few miles from some of the best apples and best game on the planet. I wanted to dovetail seafood with other food, and that comes back to the seasons. If you are a fish-eater, we will always have that, but I will also serve in-season pheasant and venison."

Phillips also knew that a pub's reputation was even more linked to its drink.

The Pearson's serves an extensive range of beers from local microbreweries; there is also a large selection of foreign and bottled beers and a comprehensive wine list.

He said: "Kent is the home of the hop and I wanted to reflect that. We also offer our Wine Flights, when customers can try three different glasses of wine for a set price.

"Ten years ago, it was hard to find local suppliers that could fulfil demand. People would come to me with a free-range chicken, but when I said I needed 100 a week they would baulk at that. Local suppliers are realising they have to produce more if they are going to deal with the restaurant trade."

Diners can also expect a varying menu. The lunchtime fare changes every week and the à la carte dishes change around every three weeks.

"That is important to me," said Phillips. "I like my customers to come back and know they can experience something different. It is also good for my staff – it keeps them on their toes. The food has to be good because it has my name associated with it, but I don't want to scare people off. I want the pub to be welcoming to families."

So how has the first six months been?

Phillips said: "It has been great, but I feel I have only just scratched the surface – we have a long way to go. I never like to get complacent."

Farmers' markets

Dartford

DARTFORD farmers' market began in November 2005 at the request of Dartford Borough Council and has been running since then. It is held in the pedestrian area of Dartford high street and is open to the public between 10am and 2pm selling a variety of produce.

Headcorn

HEADCORN farmers' market has now entered its fourth year and opens every second Saturday from 9.30am to 12.30pm at the village hall. It aims to provide good-quality local produce and locally-made goods at excellent prices, with a wide range on offer.

Penshurst

THE Times recently named Penshurst farmers' market in its Top Ten markets in the UK. With more than 30 stalls offering the best local food and drink, it is set against the picturesque backdrop of Penshurst Place on the first Saturday of each month.

Hildenborough

EVERY Tuesday in St John's Church Centre, the extremely popular Hildenborough farmers' market has an average of 20 stalls each week offering a wide range of fresh local produce including meats, cheeses and fruit of high quality at competitive prices.

Whitfield

WHITFIELD farmers' market is held every Thursday from 9am to midday in the village hall. It is a very busy market, with 200-300 customers through the door each week, and offers fresh fish including scallops, crabs, lobsters and local fish in season.

Rolvenden

ROLVENDEN farmers' market was established in 2000 and has been in business ever since. It is run by volunteers and is non-profit-making and takes place every Thursday from 10am to midday in the new village hall and St Mary's Church opposite.

■ **For more farmers' markets, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk**

Train & retrain

sponsored by KENT ADULT EDUCATION

Troubled youths given anti-arson messages through safety course

KENT Fire and Rescue Service has teamed up with the security firm G4S to tackle issues relating to arson and anti-social behaviour.

Five young people from the Medway Secure Training Centre in Borstal, near Rochester, took part in a five-week programme which included sessions on road accidents.

Ian Grieves from Kent Fire's youth diversion team said: "Our main aims were to increase educational awareness and personal responsibility – themes which underpin all our work with young people – but speaking to a group such as this was a first and we're all very pleased at how it went."

To mark the completion of the scheme the youngsters were invited to Maidstone fire station to witness a car-cutting demonstration.

Jim Connolly, head of professional standards at the training centre, said: "The project has been a real success and the young people have gained a tremendous amount from the experience, which I am sure they will take with them in the future.

"The success of the project owes a great deal to the exciting and challenging way the fire officers were able to engage with the group and get them to invest in some really important messages.

"This is definitely something we would like to replicate in the future with other groups."

Flower show success for iPad student

A MEDIA production student from Maidstone contributed to a gold medal-winning display at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Sean Carr, who is currently studying for a BA (Hons) at the University of Lincoln, created an iPad application to compliment Interflora's creation at the event.

The brief was to build a fully-branded app that would be able to display images and videos as well as host a fully-operational mobile site.

It sat alongside a floral installation called A Sense of Perspective, which was designed by artist David Denyer and consisted of nine seven-foot doorways adorned with many thousands of flowers.

Sean said: "I'm really chuffed to bits. This was my first app so I was surprised and delighted it was used at such a high profile event."

His tutor Ros Garland – senior lecturer within Lincoln's School of Media and a specialist in digital media technology – added: "Working on this sort of project in the second year of an undergraduate degree gives the student confidence and some professional experience going into level three.

"Sean is already researching new ways of creating apps and suggesting solutions using the new iPad technologies."

Interflora is one of the largest and oldest flower delivery services in the world.

The Chelsea Flower Show project came about when David Clancy – a video producer for the firm – put out the call for a student to produce an iPad app as the finishing touch for the company's installation.



TALENTED: Sean Carr designed an iPad app

He said: "Sean was great to work with, very mature in his approach and able to respond well to our requirements.

"I'm certain he enjoyed the experience and learned a lot from it, and I wouldn't hesitate in working with him again.

"The apps were used by thousands of people across the week and feedback was very good."

More than 150,000 people attend the Chelsea Flower Show every year.

Cookery school provides food for thought with range of new courses

A NEW purpose-built cookery school opened at Ashford's Secret Garden restaurant this week.

The school will offer both novice and experienced cooks a choice of 21 courses that will run throughout the year.

Each course, which caters for up to 12 people, is run by a trained head chef and includes practical demonstrations, advice, recipe ideas and seasonal inspiration.

Some will also include a three-course lunch with wine and the opportunity to taste treats cooked throughout the day.

Stephanie Wanstall owns the Secret Garden with husband Douglas.

She said: "Cooking has become an increasingly popular passion and hobby for many people, and the best way to learn and improve your skills is to watch how the professionals do it and have a go yourself.

"We have a range of courses for all levels of cook, and it is a great way to meet like-minded people from the local area and further afield, all in a tranquil and beautiful setting.

"All our courses are very hands-on and very practical, and maximise the use of the best local and seasonal produce."

Day courses run from 9.30am-4pm and cost from £39. Evening and half-day courses are also available. Visit www.secretgardenkent.co.uk.



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For more information, please contact the **Training Solutions Team** on **01843 605032** or email **training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk**

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Public Sector

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KEY STAGE TWO TEACHER

required with an ability to teach across the Key Stages, preferred

We are looking to appoint an outstanding classroom practitioner who is dynamic and flexible ~ to join our hard working and caring school team in **September 2011**.

The successful candidate will be:

- able to demonstrate outstanding classroom practice
- enthusiastic and imaginative
- committed to raising standards
- motivated, with high expectations
- hard working and able to work as part of a team
- able to support and help promote the school's Catholic ethos.

The school is committed to safeguarding children and adheres to the 'safer recruitment' criteria. Appointment will be dependant upon an enhanced disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau.

Visits to the school are encouraged and can be arranged by contacting St Joseph's Preparatory School on 01474 533012 or email headteacher@sjcps.org

Closing Date for applications 21st June 2011

Good Schools Guide: *A top-notch co-ed school catering for that neglected breed, ordinary children, as well as for the higher flier.*
Independent School of the Year 2010/11 Top UK Boarding School

ASHFORD

750 boys and girls aged 3-18; senior school of 430 pupils with 135 boarders.

Assistant Boarding Staff

Matrons for our three Houses
September 2011

Due to the increasing popularity of boarding and the introduction of a Junior Boarding House from September 2011, we require three Matrons to care for our boarders under the leadership of the Housemaster/mistress.

These are non-teaching posts requiring spilt shift work in the mornings/evenings and at weekends. Previous experience of working with young people in a residential setting is desirable but energy, initiative and a positive disposition are essential alongside excellent home making skills. Single accommodation is provided but we will consider a living out post if you are local to Ashford.

For an application form and further information, please contact Mrs Anne Rylands, Head's PA, Ashford School, East Hill, Ashford, Kent TN24 8PB
Closing date for receipt of applications: Wednesday 22 June 2011 at 12.00 noon.

United Church Schools Trust
The best in everyone

T: 01233 739032 • E: rylandsa@ashfordschool.co.uk
W: www.ashfordschool.co.uk
Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening including checks with past employers and the CRB.



HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

37 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR
SALARY SCALE: £37,505 - 43,336

An exciting opportunity has arisen for Thanet College to recruit a dynamic Head of Human Resources.

Thanet College is looking for an experienced and highly skilled HR professional to be responsible for the strategic leadership and management of an outstanding Human Resource Service to the College

The successful candidate will ideally be CIPD qualified and have successful leadership experience within an HR capacity

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Job reference: HBR001
Closing date: 29 June 2011

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination

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THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

SKILLS PRACTITIONER - PLASTERING

To provide Learning/Technical support to staff and students and undertake assessment and quality assurance duties as required by the College and awarding bodies

SALARY SCALE: £8,567 - £10,123 FOR 18.5 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line an (01843) 605052

Closing date for the above posts: Wednesday 29th June 2011

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available:

FACILITIES TEAM LEADER

SALARY SCALE: £19,659 - £23,040 FOR 37 HOURS PER WEEK ALL YEAR

To support the Head of Facilities in the running of the colleges Facilities / goods in Departments.

This role will provide guidance and information to staff regarding everyday operations and assist in the execution of college's facilities duties. This is very much, a hands on role and can be very demanding at times, working closely with the college maintenance and support teams to ensure that continuity of service is maintained across the Facilities division.

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line an (01843) 60505

Closing date for the above posts: : **Wednesday 15th June 2011**

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination

Changing the way we do business

CORPORATE CONTRACTS OFFICER (FINANCIALS)

£30,210 to £35,685

Shepway District Council is creating a new and exciting role to make sure that professional financial support and robust contract management is in place so that value for money, quality and risk are effectively managed to ensure that we get best outcomes for our residents.

The successful applicant will be working with the Corporate Contracts Manager to monitor the council's contracts. This post will be the lead finance support in the newly created Client Unit. The post holder should have experience of using financial modelling tools to assist with business decisions. The main responsibility will be that of compliance, working across the organisation with clients, public sector partners and contractors in ensuring that they are delivering to high standards against agreed service level agreements and contract requirements.

The responsibilities of the Client Unit will increase over time and this is an ideal time for an individual with the necessary experience looking for a new challenge to join the council.

Candidates may have public sector experience but the value that they can bring in modern, flexible and effective contract management as well as outstanding relationship management will be of more interest. A financial qualification, minimum AAT or equivalent, is essential to undertake complex financial modelling and knowledge of either human resources/payroll or housing services is desirable.

For an informal discussion about this post please contact **Louise Birch**, on **01303 853332**. Application details can be downloaded at **www.shepway.gov.uk**. Alternatively, email **hrpartnership@dover.gov.uk** or call **01304 872799** for an application pack.

Closing date for completed applications is: **Wednesday 22 June 2011**

Interview dates: **Monday 4 July and Tuesday 5 July 2011**

Folkestone
Hythe & Romney Marsh

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

NETWORK & SYSTEMS TEAM LEADER

As Line Manager to the Network Support and Reporting Team, you will lead this team in maintaining, supporting and developing the College network infrastructure.

SALARY SCALE: £25,589 - £30,205 FOR 37 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR

STUDENT ENTITLEMENT MANAGER

To lead and manage the cross College implementation of the Learner Involvement Strategy, student entitlement, progression support and enrichment.

SALARY SCALE: £33,917 - £38,358 FOR 37 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR

PROGRAMME LEADER - HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

With responsibility for course leadership of Access to Health and Social Care programmes, this role is key to ensuring a well-organised high quality course or study programme that effectively meets the needs of the learners.

SALARY SCALE: £29,413 - £34,817 FOR 37 HOURS PER WEEK ALL YEAR

SKILLS PRACTITIONER - PAINTING & DECORATING

To provide Learning/Technical support to staff and learners within the Division and to undertake assessment and quality assurance duties as required by the College and awarding bodies.

SALARY SCALE: £17,133 - £20,246 FOR 37 HOURS PER WEEK ALL YEAR

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line an (01843) 605052

Closing date for the above posts: Friday 17th June 2011

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College is passionate about student success. We are seeking to appoint outstanding individuals to teach at our new campus in Medway and our Maidstone Campus.

Programme Area Leader - Beauty Therapy — *Ref: P0001*

Salary: £26,336 - £34,005 (Dependent on qualifications and experience) • Medway Campus

We are seeking an exceptional candidate to join our highly successful Services to People Faculty and provide support to the Head of Faculty on all staffing, student, curriculum and quality issues. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a significant level of competence in Teaching and Learning and have good motivational and communication skills. Post holder will hold, be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. This is a great opportunity to join a Grade 1 team dedicated to student success and progression.

Lecturer in Human Resources and Management — *Ref: P0422*

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 pro rata (Dependent on qualifications and experience)
25.9 hours per week • Maidstone

MidKent College has a long history of successfully preparing candidates for the very demanding CIPD national examinations and the rigorous requirements of the CMI programmes. We are now looking for someone who is committed to excellence in teaching to join the team. The successful candidate will have extensive professional experience in HRM and be able to use that experience to enhance their credibility in the classroom. Ideally you will be a Chartered Member of the CIPD but candidates in the final stages of gaining chartered status will also be considered.

Lecturer in Performing Arts - Dance — *Ref: M0071*

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 pro rata (Dependent on qualifications and experience)
22.2 hours per week • Fixed Term Maternity Cover • Medway Campus

We are looking for a knowledgeable, skilled and inspirational Lecturer to teach Dance within our successful Performing Arts Department. Taking full advantage of the fantastic facilities at our new Medway Campus, the successful candidate will contribute to the development, delivery and teaching of programmes at Levels 2 & 3 and will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Production Arts — *Ref: P0510*

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 pro rata (Dependent on qualifications and experience)
18.5 hours per week • Medway Campus

We are seeking an experienced and knowledgeable Lecturer to join our Production Arts department. The successful candidate will have an all-round knowledge of the technical elements of theatre and experience of teaching lighting and sound to students in Further or Higher Education. Teaching on our Level 3 Production Arts pathway, they will contribute fully to departmental productions and will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Communication Studies — *Ref: P0273*

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 (Dependent on qualifications and experience) • Medway Campus

We are seeking an inspirational and experienced Lecturer to teach Communication Studies and English with Sociology within the Higher and Academic Studies Faculty. The successful candidate will contribute to the development, delivery and teaching on A level and Access courses and will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification. Full time and part time roles available - please specify your preference on your application form.

Lecturer in Animal Care — *Ref: P0141*

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 (Dependent on qualifications and experience) • Medway Campus

The ideal candidate will be an enthusiastic and experienced individual to join our Animal Care Department. They will contribute to the delivery and success of courses from Entry to Level 3, using the excellent facilities available. The successful candidate will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Biology — *Ref: P0538*

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 (Dependent on qualifications and experience) • Medway Campus

We are looking to recruit a skilled Lecturer to contribute to the success of the Higher and Academic Studies Faculty delivering A level, GSCE and Access courses. The ideal candidate will be an inspirational teacher, have a relevant first degree within the subject area and hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Front Line Events Co-ordinator — *Ref: P0450*

Salary: £15,891 - 19,464 pro rata (Dependent on qualifications and experience)
22.2 hours per week • Medway Campus

The MidKent College Frontline customer service programme is a unique, award-winning course giving students first-hand experience of customer service delivery at local and national events. We are seeking an exceptional individual who is able to work flexibly to organise, develop and deliver events and activities with our students. The successful candidate will have a strong track record in an events organisation or a related customer service field. They will understand the importance of personal presentation and be able to develop a strong customer service ethos among students. Excellent communication skills and an ability to work with a variety of people are essential. A teaching, training or customer service qualification is desirable.

Closing date: 12 noon Friday 24 June 2011

Candidates are encouraged to visit the College prior to interview/application. Please contact Human Resources on 01634 383511 to arrange.

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding children and young people therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College

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Qualified Teachers Urgently Required
Long & Short Term Work Available Now!
Throughout Kent & SE London
Run by Teachers for Teachers
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Accredited on behalf of the Department for Education
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Teachers Needed
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Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.
Our dedicated and friendly Kent team can provide you with:
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Dover College
English as a Foreign Language Teacher
Required for September 2011
We are seeking to recruit a Teacher of EAL to teach pupils from Year 7 up to the 6th Form. Please contact Mrs Vassie Henderson for an application form and full details of the post.
Completed forms, together with a full CV including names and addresses of 2 referees, should be sent to Headmaster's Office, Dover College, Effingham Crescent, Dover, Kent CT17 9RH.
Dover College is an equal opportunity employer. Dover College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and the selected individual will be subject to Criminal records Bureau checks at the enhanced level, in accordance with Child Protection legislation.
Tel: 01304 244 501
Email: vassie@dovercollege.org.uk
www.dovercollege.org.uk

The Sittingbourne Community College
Daring to be different!
The Specialist College for Arts, Sport and Engineering.
One of the most rapidly improving schools in Kent.
5+ A-C English & Maths from 27% to 50%
and 5+ A-C from 60% to 85% in the last 3 years.
Roll increased from 950 to 1,400 in 5 years (including 300 in Post 16 Centre).
REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2011
TEACHER OF BUSINESS
(2 days per week - salary negotiable)
Are you an experienced businessman/woman who would like to teach Post 16 students Business Studies at Advanced Level?
Or ...
Are you an inspirational Business Studies Tutor?
Committed to Child Protection and Safety.
Post subject to Enhanced CRB Disclosure.
For further details please contact Mrs Debbie Myers, Personnel Officer, on 01795 472449 or email debbie.myers@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk.
To apply, please send your letter of application and CV to Alan Barham, Headteacher, or email to debbie.myers@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk.
CLOSING DATE: 24-6-11
The Sittingbourne Community College
Swanstree Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NL
Tel: 01795-472449 Fax: 01795-470332
Email: office@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk
Web: www.sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk

Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a

MUSIC THERAPIST

to join and enhance our high calibre team

Medway Scale B1 - point 27 to 36 (£22,958 to £30,011)
(Full time - term time only - pro rata)

Abbey Court School is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Music Therapist, with a professional and flexible approach. In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting who would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their full potential.

Working hours are 37 hours p/w, term time only. Candidates should hold a relevant Music Therapy qualification. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 24th June 2011

Interview Date: 4th July 2011

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/0627/S - HEADCORN AERODROME, SHENLEY ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9HX - Variation of condition 7 of MA/77/1559 to hold an aerial display on 14th & 15th August 2010, to include Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, one Mustang, The Tiger Club, Turb Team, the Bi-wing Formation, in total 6 sorties each day. **Reason: 7, 10**

MA/11/0663/N - THE GRANARY, SMITHS FARM, HOLLINGBOURNE HILL, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1QJ - Erection of a single storey front extension to create corridor. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0701/N - 11, GABRIELS HILL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6HL - Change of use of first and second floors to form two self contained flats. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/0702/N - 11, GABRIELS HILL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6HL - An application for listed building consent for works to facilitate the change of use of first and second floors to form two self contained flats. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0728/S - THE SHANT HOTEL, EAST SUTTON ROAD, EAST SUTTON, KENT, ME17 3DT - An application for a new planning permission to replace extant outline planning permission MA/04/1127 (Outline application for the redevelopment of the site to provide public house, hotel, restaurant, parking and garaging with means of access and siting including the reserved matters of design, external appearance and landscaping approved under application MA/04/1127/01) to allow a further five years in which to implement the development. **Reason: 6**

MA/11/0746/N - BELL HOUSE, THE GREEN, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4ED - Alteration to existing garage doors, removal of central brick pier between 2no. garage doors to form one larger opening with the installation of single 'up and over' metal garage door. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0747/N - BELL HOUSE, THE GREEN, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4ED - An application for listed building consent for the alteration to existing garage doors, removal of central brick pier between 2no. garage doors to form one larger opening with the installation of single 'up and over' metal garage door. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0753/N - THE TRINITY FOYER, 20, CHURCH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1LY - An application for listed building consent for the installation of new ramps for disabled access to replace existing ramps to front and rear doors including raising the ground level. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0768/S - 3, PAYNES LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9QT - Erection of single storey rear extension as shown on drawing nos. BDS-135-01 & 02 received 12/05/11. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0778/S - HILL PLACE, LINTON HILL, LINTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4AL - Erection of 2.4m high acoustic fencing and replacement gates. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0789/N - THE TRINITY FOYER, 20, CHURCH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1LY - Installation of new ramps for disabled access to replace existing ramps to front and rear doors including raising the ground level. **Reason: 1, 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
10 - Application is of general Public Interest.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **26th June 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 12th June 2011

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Borough of Tunbridge Wells

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH WS21

IN THE PARISH OF SOUTHBOROUGH

(Public Footpath WS21 in the Parish of Southborough)

(Prohibition Of Traffic) Temporary Order 2011

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 14(1), As Amended By The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath WS21, between Andrew Road and Barnetts Way from the 31st May 2011.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 13th June 2011.

The path is to be closed because works are planned under the path and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is along the footway from Barnetts Way to Andrew Road and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact
Jonathan Bibby
Tel: (01732) 872829 ext 8

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XX **Dated: 10th June 2011**

The above notice may be provided in other formats

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Notice of an Application for the Variation of a Premises License (Licensing Act 2003)

Notice is hereby given that Mr F & Mrs M Berisha has applied to Ashford Borough Council for the Variation of a Premises Licence for Various Regulated Entertainments & Sale of Alcohol 10:00-00:00, Late Night Refreshments 23:00-00:00 Remove Embedded Conditions for the premises Croft Hotel situated at Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, TN25 4DU.

A register of licensing applications can be viewed at the Licensing Section, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL 01233 330721 by appointment.

Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 18th June 2011.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: The prevention of crime and disorder, Public Safety, the Prevention of Public Nuisance and the Protection of Children from Harm.

It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5000), under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982 LICENSING OF SEX ESTABLISHMENT

Notice is hereby given that an application is being made to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council by Tracey Jane Whitmore, 4B Daroets Road, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent ME5 8BH, for the renewal of a Licence for a Sex Shop at the premises known as Vibez UK Ltd, situated at Unit 3, 2M Trade Park, Beddow Way, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7BT.

Any comments/objections to the application should be made in writing to The Chief Solicitor Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive,Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ, by no later than 10th July 2010.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13

KCC/AS/0256/2011 - Proposed development at Land at Waterbrook Park, Waterbrook Avenue, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0GB.

Robert Brett & Sons Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for proposed minor re-alignment to approved site access intended to serve the waste transfer station permitted under ref: AS/06/4.

You may view this application at our office in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours. The application documents can also be viewed at the following locations:-

a) Ashford Borough Council, Central Reception in the Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford
b) The Gateway Centre, 14 Park Mall, Ashford
c) Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden

Alternatively, details of the application can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/planning.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 12 June 2011

Kent County Council

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817044

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advdertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

ANDREWS
Simon and Rachael are delighted to announce the birth of their son Charlie Neil Andrews, born on 25th May, 2011, weighing 9lb 2oz. A grandson to Mary and Neil Andrews and Lesley Gaved and Geoff Farnsworth.

CAREY
Grace and Gary would like to announce the birth of their beautiful baby boy Lennon Thomas Carey. Born 22nd May, 2011.

FARRER
Jonathan and Carly of Canterbury proudly announce the birth of their son, Joshua Jon Farrer. Joshua was born on 20th May, 2011, at William Harvey Hospital Ashford. A new brother for Sophie.

HATTER
Jason and Tia celebrate the birth of their son Frazer William Jay who was born on 17th May, 2011, at Maidstone Hospital. Thank you to all our family and friends for their love and support.

HILL
Samuel born on 11th May, 2011, at 19.21 hours, weighing 7lb 9oz. Son to Joanne and Ian.

HODGE
Michelle and James of Broadstairs are delighted to announce the birth of their son Henry Edward Hodge, born on 15th May, 2011, weighing 8lb 1oz. A brother for Jean.

KUMAR
Ann and Anil Kumar celebrate the birth of their twins Eliza Mai and Evander Neo born on the 12th May, 2011. Sister and brother to Hayden Joshua Kumar.

LANGLANDS
Fletcher, born 27th May, 2011, weighing 10lb 5oz. Son to Phil and Michelle and brother to Thea and Iyla.

McKENNA
Laura and Andrew McKenna celebrate the birth of their son Aidan Lawrence McKenna at home in Folkestone on the 21st May, 2011, weighing 9lb10oz.

MEAD
Alfie born on 21st May, 2011, weighing 6lb 14oz. Son to Jack and Stacey.

PARRIS
Joanna and David Parris celebrate the birth of their son Toby John Parris on 18th May, 2011.

SEABROOK
Jonathan and Vivyan Seabrook celebrate the birth of their first born son Harry Jon on 22nd May, 2011, weighing 9lb 9oz.

SMITH
Sam and Hayley would like to welcome our beautiful baby girl into the world. Daisy Marie Smith born on 3rd June, 2011, weighing 7lb 8oz. A beautiful sister for Lily Rose. xxx

SMITHSON
Donna and Ben Smithson celebrate the birth of their son Liam James Smithson, brother to Lauren born on 24th May 2011.

SZELAG
Maja Victoria born on 14th May, 2011, weighing 8lb 8oz. Daughter to Holly and Marcin of Folkestone.

TERRY
Briony and Stephen welcome their daughter Savannah Sarah Terry to the family, born on 21st May, 2011, brother to Maximus, weighing 8lb 6oz.

YALAJU
Charles and Trudi are pleased to announce the arrival of their beautiful daughter Grace Eyimisan who was born on 10th May, 2011. Proud grandparents are Mary and the late Samuel, Jean and Jim.

DEATHS

BLYTHE
Victor Charles Frederick Blythe of Dover passed away peacefully on 28th May 2011. Funeral Service at Barham Crematorium at 2.40pm on 14th June, 2011. Vic will be sadly missed by family and friends. To live in the hearts of those left behind is to live forever.

GODDARD
Kenneth Charles Edward Goddard on 25th May, 2011, aged 79 years. Dearly loved father of Wendy and Peter, grandfather of Lyla and Mica. Funeral service at Barham Crematorium on the 15th June at 10am. Family flowers only. Donations may be made to Pilgrims Hospice, Canterbury.

POWELL
Derek Powell on the 4th June, 2011, aged 80 years. Dearly loved husband of Liz, father of Jan and Gary, father-in-law of Bob and Jo, grandfather of Matt, Liam and Tom. Late publican of The Windmill at Burham. Funeral at Vinters Park Crematorium 12.30 on Tuesday, 21st June, 2011. Family flowers only, all donations via Doves Funerals, will go to The Heart of Kent Hospice, Aylesford.

TUPPER
Debbie Tupper on the 27th May, 2011, aged 36 years. Beloved daughter of Edna and the late Brian, sister to David. Funeral service at St Pauls Church, Maidstone, at 12 noon on the 14th June. No flowers, all enquiries and any donations please contact Paul Rowland Funeral Services 01622 662661.

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(B2080 THE STREET, APPLEDORE, ASHFORD)

(SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will be to:

Revoke the existing 30mph speed limit on the following roads or lengths of road:

B2080 The Street – From its junction with Court Lodge Road and Station Road in a westerly direction for a distance of 498 metres.

And introduce a 30mph speed limit on the following lengths of road:-

B2080 The Street – From its junction with Court Lodge Road and Station Road (Rhee Wall) in a northerly direction for a distance of 709 metres.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(A28 ASHFORD ROAD, BETHERSDEN)

(SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will be to remove a section of the existing 40mph speed limit on the following roads or lengths of road:

A28, Ashford Road Bethersden

And introduce a 30mph speed limit on the following lengths of road:-

A28, Ashford Road from 11.5 metres south east of its entrance to Bean place, in a westerly direction, for a distance of approximately 1361 metres to a point 14.5 metres south west of the entrance to Beult Cottage.

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send your grounds for your observations in writing to the Transport and Development Manager Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.ashford.swale@kent.gov.uk by 12 noon on 5th July 2011

A2042 BAD MUNSTEREIFEL ROAD, ASHFORD (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce whilst water mains replacement works are carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 40 mph on the eastbound carriageway of the A2042 Bad Munstereifel Road, Ashford.

The section affected is from the junction with Romney Marsh Road to where it becomes designated as the A2070 Trunk Road.

This Order comes into force on or after 19 June 2011 for up to 16 weeks or until the works have been completed.

BRIDGE STREET, WYE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of urgent carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bridge Street, Wye, on or after 19 June 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the level crossing and the bridge over the river.

There will be no access for through traffic from Harville Road / Bramble Lane into the village of Wye.

The alternative route is via Bridge Street, Churchfield Way, High Street, Upper Bridge Street, Oxenturn Road, Naccolt Road, Hinxhill Road, The Street (Willesborough), A2070 Kennington Road & Willesborough Road, A28 Canterbury Road and Harville Road.

FLOOD STREET, MERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway surfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Flood Street, Mersham, on or after Saturday 2 July 2011 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

Flood Street (shown as Church Road on some maps) will be closed from Mersham Primary School to the junction with Blind Lane.

The alternative route is via Flood Street, South Stour Road, Cheeseman's Green Lane, Highfield Lane, Kingsford Street, The Street, Bower Road and Church Road.

POUND LANE, KINGSNORTH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pound Lane, Kingsnorth, on or after 27 June 2011 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in sections along its entire length.

The alternative route is via Ashford Road, Brittania Lane and Millbank Road.

WIND HILL LANE, CHARING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wind Hill Lane, Charing, on or after 13 June 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Lodge Road and Egerton Road.

The alternative route is via Lodge Road and Egerton Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, CHILHAM)

(PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS) ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, proposes to make an Order, the effects of which would be to:-

Extend the existing Width Restriction (6' 6") and Prohibition of Buses restrictions on the following lengths of road in the Parish of Chilham :-

Taylors Hill – from its junction with The Square, in a westerly direction for a distance of 178 metres.

Bagham Road – from its junction with Felborough Close in a south westerly direction for a distance of 126 metres.

Branch Road – for its entire length.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours in the offices of the Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL and Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

If you wish to support or object to the new proposal you should write to the Traffic Schemes and MHF Manager at Kent Highway Services, Unit 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.ashford.swale@kent.gov.uk stating your reasons, by not later than 12 noon on 4 July 2011.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

CRABBLE AVENUE, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Crabble Avenue, Dover, on or after 27 June 2011 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Hillside Road and Crabble Road.

The alternative routes are

River-bound via Crabble Road, Crabble Hill, Buckland Avenue, Cherry Tree Avenue, London Road, Coombe Valley Road*, Barwick Road, St. Radigund's Road and Bunkers Hill Road

Dover-bound via Bunkers Hill Road, St Radigund's Road, Barwick Road, Coombe Valley Road*, London Road, Crabble Hill, Crabble Road

* Note that there is a height restriction of 13' 9" at the railway bridge in Coombe Valley Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD, DRELLINGORE, DOVER)

(50 MPH SPEED LIMIT)

ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Sections 84 (1) (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to extend the existing 50mph speed limit. The length of road described below encompasses the existing length of 50mph speed limit and the proposed new length of 50mph speed limit.

Name of Road	Length of Road
Alkham Valley Road	From the junction with Lockering Lane to a point 125 metres north east of the junction with Hockley Sole Lane

The Order was Sealed on 8th June 2011 and will come into force on 20 June 2011.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a Statement of the Councils reasons for making the Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT)

(WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES)

(AMENDMENT NO 5) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3) 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49, 53 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the proposed Order will be to reduce the existing limited waiting parking bays in Stanhope Road and High Street and to introduce two disabled persons parking bays in Stanhope road and High Street. The Order will also introduce a short section of loading restriction between 75 High Street and a point opposite the southern boundary of King Street.

A copy of the proposed Order and the relevant plans and other relevant documents may be inspected during normal office hours at Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent and Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

CHRISTIAN FIELDS AVENUE, GRAVESEND - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Christian Fields Avenue, Gravesend for its entire length.

The Order will become effective on 27th June 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 18 months. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate demolition works and construction of new buildings.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, BOXLEY)

(50MPH AND 40MPH SPEED LIMITS AND RESTRICTED ROADS)

(AMENDMENT NO.1)

ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 50 mph speed limit on the A229 Chatham Road, Boxley (northbound lane only) on the following length of road:

A229 Chatham Road (northbound lane only)	From a point 80m north of Springfield Roundabout to a point 450m north of the centre line of the splitter island at the access to Cobtree Golf Course

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Monday to Friday at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX or at Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone Kent, ME15 8JQ

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds In writing to:

The Transportation and Development Manager, West Kent Area, Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD by 12 noon on 5th July 2011

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, FANT, MAIDSTONE)

(WIDTH LIMIT) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Sections 1(1)and (2) ,2(1) to (3), 3(2) and (4) of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will prohibit any vehicle, the width of which, inclusive of any load on the vehicle, exceeds 6 feet 6 inches, except for access, to proceed on the following length of road, subject to exemptions for emergency services, maintenance etc. and statutory undertakers carrying out work on the affected length of the road. Any vehicle authorised by the Highway Authority will also be exempt from the Order.

Lengths of Roads

Bower Lane	From the junction with A26 Tonbridge Road to the junction with Upper Fant Road	Hever Gardens	Entire Length
Bower Place	Entire Length	Orchard Place	Entire Length
Evelyn Road	Entire Length	Newton Close	Entire Length

The Order was Sealed on 3rd June 2011 and will come into force on 14th June 2011

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a Statement of the Councils reasons for making the Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone. Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made the reunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

COCKERHURST ROAD, SHOREHAM - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Cockerhurst Road, Shoreham between Redmans Lane and Kestle Farm Road.

The Order will become effective on 13th June 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last for 2 days.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Redmans Lane and Kestle Farm Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate replacement of BT cable.

TWITTON LANE, OTFORD - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Twitton Lane, Otford between Pilgrims Way West and Filston Lane.

The Order will become effective on 13th June 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last for 1 week.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Pilgrims Way West and Filston Lane

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate replacement of decayed power lines and poles.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

CHAPEL STREET, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chapel Street, Hythe, on or after 27 June 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via A259 Rampart Road, Prospect Road and Bank Street.

SHIP STREET, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ship Street, Folkestone, on or after 13 June 2011 for up to 12 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in 2 phases, initially between the junctions with Foord Road North and Boscombe Road, then from Boscombe Road to Bournemouth Road.

The alternative route is via Foord Road North, Radnor Park Road (plus Pavilion Road and Black Bull Road in reverse) and Bournemouth Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

BEXON LANE, BREDGAR (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install telegraph poles, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bexon Lane, Bredgar, on or after 30 June 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via The Street, Swanton Street, Bashford Barn Lane and Hawks Hill Lane.

NELSON AVENUE, MINSTER-ON-SEA (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of excavations in the carriageway for a new electricity supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Nelson Avenue, Minster-on-Sea, on or after 27 June 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of no. 89.

The alternative route is via Elm Lane, Drake Avenue and Scocles Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, RODMERSHAM, SWALE)

(30MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Sections 84 (1) AND (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce a 30mph speed limit in Rodmersham on the following roads or length of roads

Green Lane	Highsted Road	Cheney Hill
Stockers Hill	Cromers Road	Bottles Lane
Fruiterers Close	Highsted Valley	Brownings Orchard
Stockers Brow	Bottom Pond Road	

The Order was Sealed on 8 June 2011 and will come into force on 13 June 2011.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a Statement of the Councils reasons for making the Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(BOROUGH OF SWALE)

(VARIOUS ROADS, SITTINGBOURNE)

(WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES)

(AMENDMENT NO. 1)

ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Orders under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce waiting restrictions on the following roads or lengths of road:

Sonora Way – Both sides, from its junction with Staplehurst Road, for a distance of 150 metres extending into the junction arms of Cinnibar Drive and Quartz Way.

Jacinth Drive – Both sides, from a point level with the western end of the traffic island outside 46 Jacinth Drive, in a north-westerly direction for a distance of 150 metres and 145 metres on its southwest and northeast sides respectively including the junction arms into Quartz and Sonora Way.

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send your grounds for your observations in writing to the Transport and Development Manager Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk by 12 noon on 5 July 2011.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

HAWLEY STREET, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hawley Street, Margate, on or after 27 June 2011 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Love Lane and Lombard Street.

The alternative route is via Hawley Street, Cecil Square, Queen Street, Marine Gardens, Marine Drive, The Parade, Fort Hill, B2051 Fort Crescent, B2055 Zion Place, Northdown Road, Trinity Square and Trinity Hill.

MAYS ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to construct new waste-water inspection chambers, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mays Road, Ramsgate, on or after 13 June 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Grange Road.

The alternative route is via Grange Road, Southwood Road and Lorne Road.

There will be a brief time when Lorne Road is closed at the junction with Mays Road, as advised locally and signed on site.

Managed access will be maintained but there are likely to be minor delays

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (EXEDOWN ROAD, WROTHAM)

(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Exedown Road from outside The Reservoir travelling south for 70m on or after Monday 27th June 2011 for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Kemsing Road, Bull Lane, A20 London Road, Terry's Lodge Road.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for flowmeter installation and cross connections between mains. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Anthony Kavanagh on 01634 276409.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HATHAM GREEN LANE, STANSTED)

(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Hatham Green Lane on or after Monday 27th June 2011 for a period of up to 16 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Ash Lane, A20 London Road, Labour In Vain Road, Plaxdale Green Road.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for mains replacement works. Should you require any further information for these works, the contact is Chris Ayles on 01634 276311.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (MARLE PLACE ROAD, HORSMONDEN)

(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Marle Place Road from Highlands Farm to B2162 Lamberhurst Road on or after Monday 27th June 2011 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Ruck Lane and B2162 Lamberhurst Road.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for a supply upgrade. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Scott Davis on 01732 783986.

WEST KENT

BOROUGHS OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS, MAIDSTONE AND TONBRIDGE & MALLING

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(A228 MAIDSTONE ROAD, CAPEL/WHETSTED ROAD, CAPEL/ WHETSTED ROAD, YALDING/BRANBRIDGES ROAD, EAST PECKHAM/BOYLE WAY, B2160 MAIDSTONE ROAD, YALDING, BELTRING ROAD, EAST PECKHAM, BRANBRIDGES ROAD, EAST PECKHAM)

(40 MPH & 30MPH SPEED RESTRICTIONS)

(NO STOPPING OR WAITING RESTRICTIONS)

(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)

TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public the Kent County Council intends to make an Order with the following restrictions.

Traffic travelling at any speed in access of 40mph is prohibited on the A228 Maidstone Road, Capel from the junction with B2017 Badsell Road to the junction of Whetsted Road (northern end, the start of the A228 Whetsted Road, Capel).

Traffic travelling at any speed in access of 30mph is prohibited on the A228 Whetsted Road, Capel between the A228 Maidstone Road, Capel to the roundabout outside the main entrance to The Hop Farm Country Park.

The effect of the Order will be to introduce prohibition of waiting or stopping on A228 Maidstone Road from B2017 Badsell Road/Whetsted Road/Branbridges Road/ Boyle Way to A228 Seven Mile Lane, B2160 Maidstone Road between Transfesa Road and A228 Whetsted Road roundabout and Beltring Road between A228 Branbridges Road to Torbay Road.

Prohibit waiting and stopping on Branbridges Road, outside of the Industrial Estate.

These restrictions are to be in place, when required as indicated by signage on site, between 0001hrs and 2359hrs on Thursday 30th June 2011 to Monday 4th July 2011 and Wednesday 20th July 2011 to Sunday 24th July 2011.

The Hop Farm Country Park apologise for any inconvenience caused by these restrictions which are necessary due to large scale events taking place.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XQ

Dated 10th June 2011

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council



A celebrity chef and his team head for the pub

SEE PAGE 53



VIEW THIS IGHTHAM

More time to enjoy country home as it extends opening

SEE PAGE 59

Kent Weekend

Into the light?

Discover whether Margate's tide really is starting to turn

SEE PAGE 71

PLUS: The future of health and social care could be combined under proposals to change the way the NHS is run - **talking point p50** Make this your manor beneath the downs - **Kent's finest property of the week p68** Saab swings back with its 9-3 - **driving p83**

Two Chimneys Holiday Park

Luxury Development Of Lodges and Golf Course





Relax & Experience the Pleasure of our picturesque Five Star Park

Whether you are retired of just looking for a care free life, Two Chimneys is the ideal place for you. With new luxury lodges on site or caravans available to order, you'll find your perfect home and destination.
All new sales include first years site fees and much more.



Our Services

Buy your own holiday home: Prices vary new and second hand models available.

Holiday Hire: Hire our luxury holiday homes **from £119** for a short break and **£170** for 7 nights.

Caravan Storage: Secure hard standing storage spaces for caravans, trailer tents, motorhomes, trailers etc.. From **£270** for 6 months.

Camping and Touring: Hard standing service pitches, electric pitches and non electric pitches. Prices from **£15** per night (includes 2 adults and 2 children)

Facilities on-site

- Licensed family club house
- Snack Bar/Take away
- Heated swimming pool
- 3 play parks & football area
- Modern clean shower blocks
- Chemical waste disposal
- Amusement arcade
- Shop
- Hot Tub
- Tennis court
- Laundry
- Golf course opening 2012





Two Chimneys Holiday Park, Shottendane Road, Birchington, Kent CT7 0HD
T: 01843 843157 - 01843 841068 **E:** info@twochimneys.co.uk **www.**twochimneys.co.uk

THE INTERVIEW

Nick Sandford

Meet the real lord of the manor

Ed Hill talks to Nick Sandford, head of the trust set up to safeguard the future of 500-year-old Jacobean mansion Godinton House, with its medieval hall and 12 acres of gardens renowned for their delphiniums

GODINTON House near Ashford is a Jacobean manor house run by a trust for the enjoyment of local people.

Nick Sandford, the estate manager for 14 years, jumped at the chance of getting involved with preserving the building.

He said: "At the time I was working for the National Trust in Wiltshire. I was fortunate enough to be offered the position of the 'agent', which is the manager of Godinton and everything connected with it."

The house has a long and complex history of owners and adaptations down the years.

"It has a medieval core, with Jacobean additions [1620s]," said Nick. "Further building took place in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The 20th-century work is just a porch, but all these additions have reflected the Jacobean style of the building."

The 12 acres of gardens have become a big draw for visitors since the trust took over running Godinton in 1996. Visitors get the chance to see the changes with the seasons and sign up for gardening and other craft courses held at the house.

Nick said: "In the park and gardens we have done a considerable amount of restoration and new planting. We hold events throughout the year, ranging from courses about gardening and craft skills including patchwork textile crafts to regular yoga classes.

"In the summer we hold open-air theatre performances and a sculpture exhibition.

Godinton is famed for its display of delphiniums, which are at their best during Delphinium Week in late June.



The summer season ends with a family Pumpkin Day, with ghost stories in the cellars, pumpkin-carving and other events.

Despite the historic nature of Godinton, Nick is not afraid to embrace new technology if it helps to maintain the house. In 2009 a woodchip boiler was installed to heat the buildings and make use of the estate's woodland resource.

He said: "The estate has a hundred acres of woodland, most of which is chestnut coppice and, as the market for wood products was dwindling, it was sensible to find a new use for it. This coincided with the growing interest in renewable energy and, because coppiced trees quickly regrow, it is a truly renewable supply. The CO_2 released by burning the wood is absorbed by the growing trees.

"The capital cost of installation was high, even after a grant from the Rural Development Programme of Europe. However, the saving in fuel costs and the increasing price of oil made it worthwhile."



PRESERVING HISTORY: Nick Sandford, left and below right with his faithful hound, has managed the glorious Godinton Hall estate for 14 years

On such an old building, Nick depends on his staff to keep on top of the never-ending maintenance that is required.

"The repair, decoration and maintenance require specialist skills such as working with lime mortar and lead paint. We are fortunate in having an in-house building team who are extremely skilled and thorough with the patience to carry out a lot of fiddly work.

"The other great challenge is trying to maintain the feel and the atmosphere of a historic house. We do not have huge numbers of visitors. We like to take small groups round with a guide so they can really benefit from an in-depth appreciation of house and the estate," he said.

Funding is also a key issue for Godinton, but the trust has worked hard over the years to build sufficient reserves to maintain it hopefully for many years to come.

And working each day at such a site does have managerial benefits.



Nick said: "My favourite view at Godinton is from the west end of the walled garden looking back to the roofs and chimneys of the house with the parkland beyond."

For more information about Godinton House and forthcoming events, visit www.godinton-house-gardens.co.uk



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TALKING **POINT**

Health care reforms



CARING AND SHARING: By combining the health and social care services it is hoped many hundreds of patients will be able to be treated at home before being referred to hospital, so saving the NHS millions of pounds

REFORMS CRITICAL TO NHS WELLBEING

The future of health and social care looks to be combined under current plans to change the way the NHS is run. But as Jenna Pudelek reports, this could be a change for the good as an 'exploratory programme' under way in Kent is proving

UNDER Government plans to reform the NHS, health and social care are set to be integrated with more power being given to family doctors and councils. The controversial Health and Social Care Bill has gone through a six-week 'listening exercise' before going back to Parliament for the details to be worked out.

Health Secretary Andrew Lansley's 'pause' has left local health and social care officials in limbo as they wait to see the extent of structural changes to the NHS.

But work has already begun in Kent to see how health and social care can be brought together in the future, when there will be a focus on early intevention to keep people away from A&E and older people out of hospitals to save money.

James Lampert, efficiency team manager at Kent County Council, has been leading an "exploratory programme" to integrate health and social care.

He said: "Where we are trying to get to is that if people are trying to negotiate the health and social care system that we have integrated the separate pockets for social care with the separate pockets of health services.

"Particularly for people with urgent needs, we know that the experience people have had in Kent is not always the best experience.

"We are looking at co-locating health and social care professionals in one place to that care pathways become more integrated. So that it becomes a seamless journey."

John Ashelford, a governor of the health watchdog Kent Local Involvement Network (LINk), said: "It is essential to combine in some way health and social care services to avoid gaps. We often come across situations where health is saying one thing and social services another.

"The two are not joined up and we need to have a way to combine these services.

"For example, older people need both health and social care, it needs to be done in such as way that they are not having to deal with two groups when they are feeling elderly, frail and confused. It will save money and help with discharging planning."

The changes are being brought in as a reaction to the fact that more people are living longer. Already 12 per cent of people over 65 have more than three long-term conditions and numbers are set to double in the next 20 years.

Mr Lampert has been looking at care for people with dementia. The number of people with the condition are set to increase to more than a million by 2021.

"This is a real challenge, not only for us in Kent," he said. "What we need to be able to do firstly is pick up people early. As people start to have difficulties with day-to-day life then get them an appointment with a GP and social care professional."

Mr Lampert and his team have been going out across Kent to talk to family doctors involved in the new GP consortia, who under the Government's plans will soon control the majority of the NHS budget.

"One of the common themes for them and what seems to have happened is that GPs feel that they are more isolated than they were in the past," he said.

In west Kent, KCC has already been working with local doctors and other community health teams to enable people to stay at home for longer to reduce costs.

A pilot scheme has been running to establish multi-disciplinary team meetings to talk about patients and services users with high-level needs such as dementia, which is aimed at stopping them going into hospital for care.

"It is professionals from social services, from the Kent Community Health Trust and GPs working more closely and talking about individuals at the higher end of risk of something going wrong. Having that dialogue between primary care nurses and social care staff," said Mr Lampert.

> **Everything is up in the air in terms of the reforms, timelines, and the NHS needs to get its house in order. People working in the NHS are trying to work out in which directions they are going in**
>
> **JAMES LAMPERT,** ON THE CURRENT STATE OF THE NHS

KCC is also working on better IT systems and ways of holding data on patients and services users, which can then be shared between health and social care teams.

With the two fields so closely linked it is a wonder that more shared working practices are not already in place.

Mr Lampert said: "It is something that should have happened a long time ago. Having the IT infrastructure helps make communication much easier."

Of course, all this is set against the backdrop of health and social care budget cuts.

"This is part of KCC's strategy to try and make health and social care better for people in Kent.

"How we can reduce costs and manage demand? There's the increasing ageing population in the context of budget cuts that KCC is having to make over the next few years, but there is a commitment from the Kent Community Health Trust to work with us to integrate health and social care provision to reduce duplication, deliver better value for money and give people a better experience."

As part of the NHS reforms, while GPs will be controlling the budget, councils will continue to scrutinise local health bodies such as hospital trusts and influence family doctors in the role as commissioners.

Asked if GPs were on board with working more closely with KCC, Mr Lampert added: "Broadly speaking every single GP says yes, integrated health and social care is the way to go and there is really good evidence that we should work with them.

"It may be because of the health changes and different GP localities with control over the budget that it might be different models of integration care depending on the different needs. What is right for Maidstone might not be right for Dartford. This is where we need to think about local health and wellbeing boards.

"This is just the beginning of a journey.

"Everything is up in the air in terms of the reforms, timelines and the NHS needs to get its house in order.

"People working in the NHS are trying to work out which direction they are going in. It has been unsettled by the Coalition coming in."

HAVE YOUR SAY...

We would like to hear your views on this, or any other story.

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KENT **REMEMBERED**



REBEL YELL: The murder of Wat Tyler pictured in the 15th century Chronicles of Jean Froissart

The peasant who led the poll tax rebellion

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

SOME 630 years ago this month thousands of rebel peasants descended on Canterbury Cathedral demanding the Archbishop be deposed.

It followed the introduction of a crippling poll tax which had been brought in under Archbishop of Canterbury Simon Sudbury, who was also the Lord Chancellor.

The Great Rising – also known as the Peasants' Revolt – saw Maidstone man Wat Tyler lead thousands of peasants from across Kent and the South East to attack Rochester Cathedral and then later break into Canterbury Cathedral during the celebration of high mass to demand that monks depose the Archbishop.

But it ended with bloodshed and the murder of Tyler and Archbishop Sudbury.

Academic Richard West, founder of the Chaucer Education Project, said historical events such as the Peasants' Revolt should be included in a Canterbury timeline.

"Much of Canterbury's history has not been published and I want to create a timeline to bring relevance to local history and bring it alive," he said.

"There is so much history here, for example, Canterbury had the world's first regular passenger railway, this is something that some people don't know.

"I also think the old City and County Borough of Canterbury should be returned – there is so much going on here, it should run separately from the county council."



BREAK IN: Peasants stormed into Canterbury Cathedral

Mr West founded the self-funded Chaucer Education Project in 1986 with a view to creating a virtual learning site, similar to Open University courses.

"It will be the technical equivalent to Open University, but students will be able to choose smaller, more specialist courses, which last a shorter period of time," he said.

"They will also be able to buy courses as they go along.

"The learning site is still being developed – it has been difficult with no funding available – but I hope to soon be able to establish the online Chaucer University."

The 1381 break-in at Canterbury Cathedral by Wat Tyler during the Peasants' Revolt was the first historical item to feature on the new pages of The Chaucer Education Project.

The famous rebellion began on May 30 and continued through June with attacks on Rochester and Canterbury, until the protesters reached London on June 14.

During a meeting between Richard II and Wat Tyler, which resulted in the King backing down on his tax plans, rebels tracked down Archbishop Sudbury and beheaded him.

Historical accounts report that the following day during another meeting, the King became angered by Tyler's arrogant behaviour and the Lord Mayor slashed at him with his sword, mortally wounding the rebel leader.

Mr West said the account gave a glimpse into what the history course unit, at GCSE level, would involve.

"This was a major event in history, particularly for Canterbury and Kent," said Mr West.

"For the last 40 years Wat Tyler's movement hasn't been published everywhere and some people don't know much about it even though it is an important part of Canterbury's history – every Christmas Day a wreath is laid on the tomb of Archbishop Sudbury."

Mr West said he aimed to create a timeline on his site to highlight local events in history as part of the planned online Chaucer University history course.

Wat Tyler Way in Maidstone is named after the rebel leader.

For information go to www.tcep.org.uk.

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The chef putting the great into pub grub

Richard Phillips talks to **Ed Hill** about his latest challenge – taking charge of a seafront hostelry

RICHARD Phillips has created some of the best restaurants in Kent. His first venture, Thackeray's in Tunbridge Wells, won a Michelin star and his other restaurants have been praised equally.

For his latest project he has moved away from fine dining into the world of the local boozer.

He said: "I knew I could deliver with my experience. I just needed to bring that to a pub."

Phillips and his team took over the Pearson's Arms, Whitstable, in December 2010. Its location right on the seafront of the trendy town has to be one of the best in the county. However, the reputation of its food has over the years, like the nearby tides, ebbed and flowed.

Phillips said: "I used to bring my children to Whitstable for a day out and always knew it was a nice place. I wanted to re-create a traditional English pub but with a really good atmosphere and a bit of everything: great beers, great wines and a great dining experience."

The chef, who has appeared on TV shows like Ready Steady Cook, wanted the character to be informal but with no drop in quality and, despite its seaside locality, he was also keen not limit the menu to seafood.

He said: "We are not a nation that just lives on seafood. Because of our great meat and other produce, we can eat a whole range. In winter we like slow-cooked and warming foods. In the summer we want something different.

TAKING OVER THE PUB: The team, from left: head chef Cameron Maclean, manager Jamie Evans and Richard Phillips

"I wanted to cook traditional dishes but executed superbly. We are just a few yards from the sea, but I am also just a few miles from some of the best apples and best game on the planet. I wanted to dovetail seafood with other food, and that comes back to the seasons. If you are a fish-eater, we will always have that, but I will also serve in-season pheasant and venison."

Phillips also knew that a pub's reputation was even more linked to its drink.

The Pearson's serves an extensive range of beers from local microbreweries; there is also a large selection of foreign and bottled beers and a comprehensive wine list.

He said: "Kent is the home of the hop and I wanted to reflect that. We also offer our Wine Flights, when customers can try three different glasses of wine for a set price.

"Ten years ago, it was hard to find local suppliers that could fulfil demand. People would come to me with a free-range chicken, but when I said I needed 100 a week they would baulk at that. Local suppliers are realising they have to produce more if they are going to deal with the restaurant trade."

Diners can also expect a varying menu. The lunchtime fare changes every week and the à la carte dishes change around every three weeks.

"That is important to me," said Phillips. "I like my customers to come back and know they can experience something different. It is also good for my staff – it keeps them on their toes. The food has to be good because it has my name associated with it, but I don't want to scare people off. I want the pub to be welcoming to families."

So how has the first six months been?

Phillips said: "It has been great, but I feel I have only just scratched the surface – we have a long way to go. I never like to get complacent."

Farmers' markets

Dartford

DARTFORD farmers' market began in November 2005 at the request of Dartford Borough Council and has been running since then. It is held in the pedestrian area of Dartford high street and is open to the public between 10am and 2pm selling a variety of produce.

Headcorn

HEADCORN farmers' market has now entered its fourth year and opens every second Saturday from 9.30am to 12.30pm at the village hall. It aims to provide good-quality local produce and locally-made goods at excellent prices, with a wide range on offer.

Penshurst

THE Times recently named Penshurst farmers' market in its Top Ten markets in the UK. With more than 30 stalls offering the best local food and drink, it is set against the picturesque backdrop of Penshurst Place on the first Saturday of each month.

Hildenborough

EVERY Tuesday in St John's Church Centre, the extremely popular Hildenborough farmers' market has an average of 20 stalls each week offering a wide range of fresh local produce including meats, cheeses and fruit of high quality at competitive prices.

Whitfield

WHITFIELD farmers' market is held every Thursday from 9am to midday in the village hall. It is a very busy market, with 200-300 customers through the door each week, and offers fresh fish including scallops, crabs, lobsters and local fish in season.

Rolvenden

ROLVENDEN farmers' market was established in 2000 and has been in business ever since. It is run by volunteers and is non-profit-making and takes place every Thursday from 10am to midday in the new village hall and St Mary's Church opposite.

■ **For more farmers' markets, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk**

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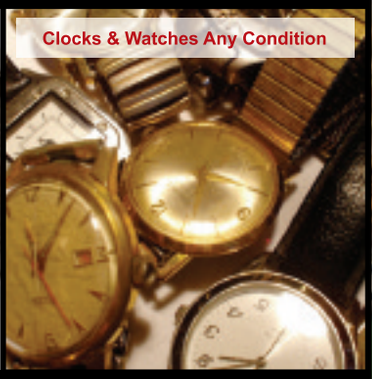
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FOOD & DRINK

Around the World: Six of the Best



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THERE is a vast array of restaurants with cusine from all corners of the globe available across Kent. Whatever it is you are looking for, you can be sure to find great examples of the culinary delights of the world. Most popular continue to be Indian and Chinese, but other eateries abound, serving Thai, Vietnamese, Iranian and Moroccan food, among others.

Europe is not forgotten, either, with the foods of Italy, France, Greece and Spain always popular. So what better way to pass a great evening or lunchtime with friends than going out and soaking in the cultural ambience and the food and drink of a different nation and way of life?

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On the menu...
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How to book...
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Don Giovanni
Folkestone

Why here...
Don Giovanni is one of the leading Italian restaurants in east Kent and a great place for diners to try a little Mediterranean experience. Close to The Leas, it has a warm and cosy venue.

On the menu...
The restaurant has a distinctly Latin ambience, much appreciated by diners. It is open from noon to 2.30pm and 6.30pm to 10.30pm Monday to Satway but closes at 10pm on Sundays.

How to book...
Don Giovanni, 18 Bouverie Road West, Folkestone CT20 2SZ
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www.dongiovannisfolkestone.com



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On the menu...
Jamon Iberico, guindillas with anchoves, scallops with morcilla (black pudding), calamares, sardinas a la plancha, Catalan honeyed chicken, beef Madrid, albondigas (meatballs) and paella Valenciana. Weekly menu at www.thetapas.co.uk.

How to book...
William & Brown Tapas,
48 Harbour Street,
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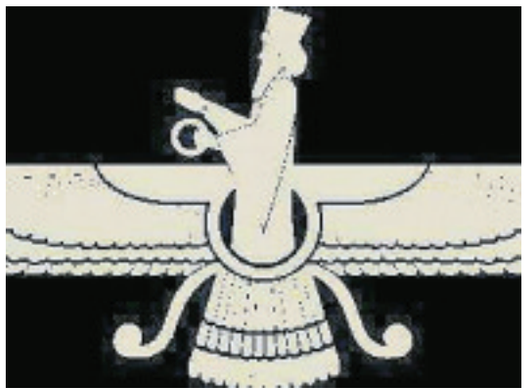
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On the menu...
A relatively small menu delivers excellent food. With a French influence, a range from oysters and moules marinières to the finer smoked haddock chowder with fennel emulsion, and baked fillet of cod. Excellent.

How to book...
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Patogh
Ramsgate

Why here...
The only Persian restaurant in the South East serving authentic cuisine, cooked by Saeed, the Iranian chef. Open during the day as a coffee shop and serving a great lunchtime menu, Patogh also offers a good choice of English food.
Persian buffet night is on the last Friday of the month, with various dishes. Just a minute's walk from Ramsgate's royal harbour and the multi-storey car park.

On the menu...
Mixed Persian starter, including aubergine topped with herbs, kofteh berenji (minced lamb mixed with lentils, rice and dill and shaped into balls served with a tomato sauce), mini mince kebabs and lamb shank served with dill and broad-bean saffron rice.

How to book...
Patogh Restaurant,
2 Effingham Street,
Ramsgate CT11 9AT
phone: 01843 852631
patoghrestaurant@aol.com



Dog and Duck
Plucks Gutter

Why here...
By the River Stour, surrounded by countryside and with a large garden. Live music every Sunday from midday to 3pm. Large function room holds up to 70 people and a smaller room up to 40.

On the menu...
A good selection of traditional pub food, with specials every day from jacket potatoes to fillet steak. Meat and vegetables sourced locally. Food midday to 9pm Monday to Friday and Sunday, later Saturday.

How to book...
Plucks Gutter, Stourmouth,
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phone: 01843 821264
Smaller groups need not book

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01303 817150

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WALKS

Faversham Walk

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent



Discover the picturesque and contrasting landscape in and around Faversham on a new Earth, Wind And Water walk, which gives visitors the chance to explore at a leisurely pace the marshes, historic town and extraordinary wildlife that so define the area.

MEANDERING through miles of beautiful countryside and past stunning coastal scenery, the circular route takes walkers from Faversham to Goodnestone and Seasalter, and back to Faversham. In town, walkers can stop off for refreshments and relax at one of the many quaint pubs and inns, restaurants and cafes serving delicious, freshly-prepared food, often featuring local and Kentish produce.

The walk starts in the charming town of Faversham, which boasts Kent's oldest street market and the UK's oldest brewer, Shepherd Neame, where visitors can enjoy pre-booked brewery tours and tasting sessions.

Journeying down Abbey Street, famous for its fine collection of period homes and the remains of the town's Medieval royal abbey, you will follow the historic waterway out of the town and into open countryside.

Once renowned as the Larder of London, this area of Kent sent supplies of grain, fruit and hops to the capital by sailing barge. Now you will discover historic farmsteads and rural hamlets dotted between golden wheatfields, hop gardens and watercress beds.

Strawberry fields surround the area around Goodnestone, which also boasts a beautiful 12th-century church and is a major centre for the UK's soft-fruit production.

From here the trail snakes to the wide, open marshes at Graveney, home to diverse ranges of plants, insects and animals as well as award-winning saltmarsh lamb, and where you can learn about a historic secret of the marshes and its nearby pub where servicemen billeted there in the Second World War captured a German aircrew after a gun fight – and then invited them back for a drink.

Walking towards the village of Seasalter, with its sandy beach and the Michelin-starred gastro pub, The Sportsman, the trail now follows the coastal path back to Faversham.

Along the route, visitors will be able to see a second wind farm – set to become the world's largest offshore wind farm – being built in the Thames estuary. The trail then takes walkers past wetland reserves, home to lizards, buzzards and rare plants, and of significant national environmental importance.

For more information on the trail, download a leaflet at www.faversham.org/walking, or visit the Tourist Information Centre.

- **Location:** Faversham, ME13 8PN
- **Distance:** 11 miles (17.7km), allow four hours 30 minutes. There is a short-cut you can take that makes the walk five miles (8km)
- **OS Explorer map:** 149
- **Terrain:** Mainly flat with a mixture of surfaced paths and arable fields. Some on-road sections
- **Step count:** Approx 22,000
- **Parking:** Queen's Hall long-stay car park is near Faversham station
- **Refreshments and facilities:** There are pubs, restaurants and a tea room en route





FRUITFUL SEARCH: Farmer Alistair Brookes shows off a collection of tasty raspberries and, top, the historic 12th-century church at Goodnestone



REFRESHMENTS: There are enough pubs and restaurants to cater for all tastes en route





LAND AND SEA: The world's largest offshore wind farm and marshland at Graveney, home to award-winning lamb

Explore Kent

EXPLORE Kent is your one-stop shop for Kent's best walks, bike rides, horse rides and parks. With inspirational videos, a free iPhone map application, ideas for days out and much more, you can explore and enjoy Kent's countryside and coast.

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KENT ATTRACTIONS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Open longer
Country home meets demand

Ightham Mote, Sevenoaks
June to September, 11am-5pm
01732 810 378
www.nationaltrust.org.uk



THE Ightham Mote estate will now open its doors to visitors more regularly throughout the summer to cope with the demand to see its grounds.
The 14th-century manor, described by historian David Starkey as "one of the most beautiful English country houses", will be open six days a weeks (not Tuesdays) for history fans to explore. Guided tours around the 700-year-old moated manor house allow nature-lovers to enjoy the scenery on the long walks.
Previously owned by Medieval knights and courtiers to King Henry VIII, the house is steeped in history, featuring its own great hall and crypt.
Adult tickets £11.50, children £5.75, family ticket £29. National Trust members have free entrance.

Conservation volunteers
Ancient trees

Tonbridge area
Sunday, July 10
www.btcv.org/kent
01233 666519

THE British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) is looking for volunteers in west Kent to join its ancient-trees project.
The group has been awarded £652,400 to carry out a survey of Kent's Heritage trees.
Heritage trees are defined by the Forestry Commission as trees with historical and cultural significance.
BTCV is looking for 330 volunteers to train to become Heritage Tree Surveyors. No experience is necessary as free training and equipment will be provided.
Volunteers can also take part in guided walks and talks, community awareness days and ecology courses.
For details, phone Virginia Hodge on 01233 666519 or email v.hodge@btcv.org.uk.

Beating retreat
Armed Forces Day tribute

Historic Dockyard Chatham
Saturday, June 25, 6pm
01634 823826
www.thedockyard.co.uk

THE Historic Dockyard Chatham is celebrating Armed Forces Day in Medway with a beating retreat and ceremonial sunset. This popular traditional event will feature the band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Portsmouth, together with the Duke Of York's Royal Military School Band and the City Of Rochester Pipe Band.
Tickets are available at £12 for a front view, £10 for a side view and £8 for a rear view.
This is a fund-raising event in aid of Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust and the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust.
It will be preceded by an Armed Forces And Veterans' Parade through Rochester high street at 10.30am, followed by a drumhead service in Rochester Castle Gardens at 11am.
As part of the Armed Forces Day celebrations, Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust is offering free entry to the dockyard, including all the galleries and attractions, for veterans, current service personnel and people who worked at the dockyard prior to its closure in 1984.
Complimentary tickets can be collected on arrival on presentation of ID or proof of service.
Up to five accompanying guests will be able to buy guest day tickets for the event at the reduced price of £9.50.



Father's Day
Light-railway treat for Dad

Tenterden & Bodiam Station
Sunday, June 19, 1.15pm
www.kesr.org.uk
01580 765 155

THIS Father's Day, why not treat Dad to a day at the Kent and East Sussex Railway?
The treat includes a return journey on one of the railway's stunning vintage steam trains, and Dad can choose from a delicious homemade ploughman's lunch or cream tea, served to your reserved table and complimented by a bottle of the railway's own beer, Dad's Delight.
Also included in the ticket price is an amusing caricature of Dad, which will be drawn during the train ride, so he remembers the day.
The Kent & East Sussex railway stretches more than 10 miles between Tenterden and Bodiam stations, and visitors of all ages will love the excitement of travelling on one of the country's finest rural light railways.
Relax on board as you take in the beauty of the surrounding countryside, interrupted only by the gentle chug of the steam engine. There will be a choice of two trains from Tenterden station for the Father's Day treat, departing at 1.15pm and 3.30pm.



History shots
Memories of high street

Medway Archives, Strood
Until Tuesday, July 12
01634 332714
www.medway.gov.uk

MEMORIES of Rochester high street are the inspiration for a free exhibition opening at the archives centre this month.
It features photographs from 1910, 1967 and 2011. The exhibition will also include tales from residents of Watts Almshouses collected in 2006.
One resident recalled going to a Freemasons' dinner and dance at the Corn Exchange in the 1960s. She said: "It was really grand. It was the first time I ever wore a long skirt. The Corn Exchange was really impressive as you walked up those stairs."
Another worked in Davies newsagents for 12 years. "It was the smallest shop in Rochester," she said. "The shop door used to open on to the counter, which meant anybody waiting there was knocked. We also unearthed a fireplace at the back and I suggested to my brother that he should close down for a week because I wanted to investigate further. He said newsagents can't afford to shut up shop."


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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Dover Museum
The 80s back into focus

Market Square, Dover
Until Saturday, October 8
01304 201066
www.dover.gov.uk/museum



DOVER Museum is remembering the 80s and looking at how the area has changed over the last 30 years in a new exhibition.
Using contrasting photographs, Dover In Pictures includes a comparison of technology, fashion and everyday items, as well as archive and film material. The exhibition runs in connection with the BBC's Domesday Reloaded online project, which explores the results of the 1986 Domesday project, in which local people captured life in their area, using photographs and text.
If you have items from the 80s that you would like to lend to the museum and have added to the displays, contact organiser Sam Harris on 01304 216883.



We are here to entertain you
Spirit of the 40s

Tom Thumb Theatre, Cliftonville
Wednesday, June 15
01843 221791

THE tiny Tom Thumb Theatre hosts a celebration of the spirit of the 1940s when Gordon Clarkson and his company perform the latest edition of their show There'll Always Be An England.
The show is a tribute to the performers of ENSA (Entertainments National Service Association), who lived and worked in conditions similar to the troops, service personnel and munition-factory-workers they entertained.
Packed with songs from the period and classic comedy, the show celebrates the spirit that brought Britain through some of its darkest days.
It re-creates a typical ENSA concert and, from the moment the audience passes the unexploded bomb on the way in, steps back in time to 1941 in laughter and song.
There is a talented but small company, as befits one of the smallest theatres in the world.
The first show is on Wednesday, June 15, with a matinee at 2.30pm and an evening date at 7.30pm. It is then staged on the Wednesdays of July 27 and August 10.
Tickets are £8; phone 01843 221791 or visit www.wegottickets.com/location/3610.

Living history
Post Office in the Great War

Royal Engineers Museum, Gillingham
Until Thursday, September 1
01634 822839
www.remuseum.org.uk

THE Royal Engineers Museum is hosting the exhibition Last Post: Remembering The First World War.
Curated by the British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) and Churchill Museum & Cabinet War Rooms, it explores the role played by the Post Office during the First World War. More than 75,000 men left their jobs in the Post Office to fight, with 12,000 joining the Post Office's own battalion – The Post Office Rifles.
As the men left to fight, tens of thousands of women joined the Post Office workforce temporarily. For the first time, women were allowed to perform duties from which they had previously been excluded. Postal communications, including telephones and telegraphs, were an important tool in connecting headquarters with the front line, as well as keeping soldiers and people at home in touch.
Last Post demonstrates how letters were delivered to the front, how the Post Office dealt with huge increases in mail and the vital part that censorship played in the war effort.
The museum will also display some rarely-seen postal items, including maps and the hard tack biscuit that was sent to the front through the post.
An online version of the exhibition can be viewed at www.postalheritage.org.





New gallery
Stour Valley Arts project

Elwick Road, Ashford
Sat, June 11, to Sat, July 16
01233 664 987
www.stourvalleyarts.org.uk

STOUR Valley Arts, which has been creating artworks in King's Forest, near Challock since 1994, has opened a gallery in Ashford.
The first exhibition is by artist Jem Finer, known particularly for his work with sound, music and sculpture. His latest work, Stills, has been created to coincide with the opening of the new gallery.
Finer hid a solar-powered camera in a tree in King's Wood for a year. The camera was an observer, recording all that passed before its lens. Finer then designed software to continually re-order the 18,000 captured photographs.
The sequencing means that the flow of time is continually being stretched or compressed. The viewer is as likely to witness the passing of a single day as much as a year.
Finer is giving a talk about his work at the gallery on Saturday, June 30, at 6pm. To reserve a place, email info@stourvalleyarts.org.uk.
Stills will be open from Saturday, June 11, on Wednesdays to Saturdays from 10am-5pm.

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Groups by appointment: Mid March to Christmas on most days.

To advertise in this section 01303 817150

STAGE & ARTS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Shakespeare
Much Ado About Nothing

Eridge Road, Groombridge
Thu-Sat, June 23-25, 7.45pm
01892 863 812
www.gromarts.org.uk



GROOMBRIDGE Open Air Theatre is to once again host a Shakespeare classic for its annual summer opening.
Arguably the playwright's most comedic work, Much Ado About Nothing will be displayed by the Groombridge Dramatic Society.
The group continue its 25-year tradition of holding plays at the nearby outdoor stage as well as upholding its promise to keep producing three plays a year, in spring, summer and autumn.
The play features two couples, one who argue about the failures of love, and another who cannot speak highly enough of it and each other.
The show will play again from Thursday, June 30, to Saturday, July 2.

Clairvoyance
Tony wants to make contact

Woodville Halls, Gravesend
Thursday, June 30
01474 337774

PSYCHIC medium Tony Stockwell is not a new kid on the block, and during his 20 years working as a medium he has constantly sought to improve his game and push the boundaries of his communication with those on the other side.
In that time he has had many television programmes, taught at respected schools for mediumistic development and set up his own training school for developing mediums.
Recent legislative guidelines insist that any evening of clairvoyance should be billed 'for entertainment purposes'.
Stockwell uses his natural wit, showmanship and charisma to entertain. He says mediumship has the potential to change lives and instil in people a sense of peace and purpose.
For those who do not receive a message, the use of a big screen allows the audience to become involved and takes them on a spiritual journey.
Stockwell says he hopes his shows make others aware that there is something more than just our current lives.

Mr Benn live
Extraordinary adventures

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Friday to Sunday, June 17-19
01892 530613

AN envelope landed with a soft thud on the doormat. It was an invitation for Mr Benn to a fancy-dress party.
Mr Benn is an ordinary man. He lives on an ordinary street and makes the same ordinary journey every day to his ordinary office.
Until one day, he receives an extraordinary invitation. Mr Benn's world is turned upside down when he stumbles across a small, dusty shop overflowing with costumes.
As if by magic, the shopkeeper appears and shows him to a changing room. But this is no ordinary changing room; it contains a special door that leads to adventures. Will Mr Benn ever be ordinary again?
The Mr Benn animation series of the 1970s is a fond memory for many of today's parents who saw it in the days of the lunchtime TV children's slot.
Now Tall Stories, the creators of The Gruffalo and Room On The Broom stage shows, are giving youngsters the chance to enjoy Mr Benn's adventures live. This is a new musical production to celebrate the 40th anniversary of David McKee's much-loved series.
The Extraordinary Adventures Of An Ordinary Man runs for three days. Performances: Friday 1.30pm, Saturday and Sunday 10.30am and 1.30pm. Tickets £10; schools (Friday only) £8.50. Visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.



On the art trail in Canterbury
Transient art

Canterbury high street and BBC Live screens
Organised by Sondryfolk
www.sondryfolk.com



ARTISTS Mark John Smith and Amy Wickham have been brightening up the streets of Canterbury with their transient art.
The work, placed on lamp-posts and hung around the streets, was designed to engage with the public without going to a gallery.
The temporary nature of the work was intended to highlight environmental issues affecting the planet and create connections with cultures around the world.
Smith is searching for artists to feature in a digital project, LIVELIVE, that will be featured on BBC Live screens in preparation for the Olympics.
To find out more, visit www.markjohnsmith.com.



Comedy night
Stand up for Freddie Starr

Woodville Halls, Gravesend
Thursday, June 16, 7.30pm
01474 337 774
www.woodvillehalls.com

CULT comedian Freddie Starr is back on tour with another unpredictable evening of madness and mayhem, bringing his own brand of humour to the stage.
Starr is no stranger to the Woodville Halls and is pleased to be back to deliver a show that promises to be "very live and very dangerous"... but would you expect any less from the great man?
Starr, a friend to many stars, will entertain the audience with some of his well-loved impressions of them as well as a number of new sketches.
During his past 40 years of entertainment, Starr has established himself as one of the true comic geniuses of all time, with his place in the comedy hall of fame surely assured.
Millions of people across the country have seen Starr perform his regular summer sessions in clubs and cabaret, while many will remember his own national television show, An Audience With Freddie Starr.
Don't expect your regular stand-up format as the comedian often breaks out into song.
The Liverpudlian has released a number of albums and even had a Top 10 hit, After The Laughter.
For those of you who may not know his history, Starr was also the subject of one of the most notorious headlines in journalistic history when The Sun newspaper ran the front-page saying 'Freddie Starr ate my hamster'.
The showman is ready to tread the boards once more after reality stints in Celebrity Wife Swap and Celebrity Fit Club brought him back into the public eye.
Tickets cost £19.50, but you must be 16 or older to see the show.

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(T&C's below)

BETH young minded widow, 65, 5ft 5ins, happy, size 14, N/S, many interests, seeks sincere, honest gent for friendship who might admit to some aching bones. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344291**

ATTRACTIVE lady, seeks kind, solvent male for romance and possibly love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360159**

ISABELLE lovely lady, genuine, honest, loving, caring, 68, N/S, non drinker, slightly disabled, WLTM male for love, companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347305**

BEAUTIFUL stunning young female, 21, seeks older, retired gent 70 plus to take care of her. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368187**

JACKIE 48, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more, preferably a smoker. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368039**

LISTEN up! Attractive female, WLTM male into music, films, sport and theatre. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367971**

LADY 50, single, enjoys nights in/out, cinema, travel, country walks, seeks sincere, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367851**

ATTRACTIVE mature, outgoing Caribbean female, seeks interesting companion for socialising, good conversation and glass of wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367799**

LORRAINE seeks trustworthy white male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363793**

DONNA 35, single mum of 3, seeks male with GSOH, 35-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385064**

5FT 2ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, homely, down to earth, seeks female for LTR. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366525**

49YR old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359059**

42YR old female, likes music, dancing, writing, astrology, cats, seeks male with GSOH and similar age. Medway. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351577**

YOUNG 60 something female looking for friendship only with likeminded ladies for meals out, nights out and holidays. Feltham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367625**

CLASSY lady, slim, pretty, young looking graduate, mixed race 38, London, seeking a sugar daddy to spoil and pamper me. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367031**

ELIZABETH sexy, loving, kind, caring, seeks older gent, 78 plus for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366603**

VERY cute, slim, black professional female, 36, looking for love! If you are honest, passionate, caring and spontaneous, ring me. Any race. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366725**

GREEN eyed blonde in need of love and attention seeks youthful, trendy experienced guy to enjoy good times. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366723**

ATTRACTIVE young hearted female, fed up with being alone, so if you feel the same, give me a call, lets get together. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366721**

TALL blue eyed 30's female, brown hair, lots of interests, seeks male for good times. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366705**

ATTRACTIVE and any man's dream seeks, outgoing, professional male for evenings in and fun nights out. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366703**

CUTE very curvy young girl, 18, WLTM romantic guy for lots of fun and loving. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366699**

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501**

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319**

LADY 56, semi disabled, size 18, seeking a caring, loving, honest gent, 50 plus. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365453**

48YR old female, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, holidays, coast, seeks male, 48-50, preferably a smoker for LTR. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365955**

SUSIE 5ft 7ins, blonde, seeks educated attractive male for loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385476**

34YR old blonde new to the area, seeking younger guy for fun times maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365079**

FUN loving curvy red head 32yrs, loves good food/wine, WLTM male who appreciates a real woman and knows what he likes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365077**

ACADEMIC man sought by female, recent graduate, into art, history, psychology, likes usual activities as well as London art galleries and walks. Brimley. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365501**

ATTRACTIVE confident, lady, 37, independent, HIV Positive, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363415**

48YR old female, average build, good looking, likes most things, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363321**

FUN outgoing lady, seeks spontaneous male, 37-60, adventurous, professional, attractive. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363331**

JANE 27, caring, bubbly, likes nights out, cinema, bowling, DVDs, seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363203**

SINGLE 50 plus female, seeks male who likes talks, walks, dining and dancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364975**

FEMALE 25, professional, likes nights out, socialising, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360961**

A rare diamond, bright, sparkly and good quality, let me put the sparkle back into your life. Wanted professional, attractive male, 38-58, medium build, 5ft 9ins. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361005**

LADY slim, brunette, N/S, likes music, National Trust, theatre, days out, seeks sincere, honest gent, 48-60 for friendship, maybe more. Kent/Sussex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360633**

64YR old female, 5ft 2ins, GSOH, likes golf, seeks male with GSOH for friendship, days out, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339581**

WARM well educated 60's female, seeks similar gent to enjoy the simple things of life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360477**

UNIQUE attractive black female, 37, slim, enjoys music, reading, theatre nature, WLTM genuine gent, 37-49 to share laughter and life, caring, N/S who lives near London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333815**

ANNE 61, 5ft 3ins, medium build, blue eyes, blonde hair, seeks honest male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361243**

65YR old slim brunette, caring, loving, many interests, arts, coastal walks, animals, cooking, seeks attractive, compatible male. Dog owner in Maidstone perfect. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383676**

MALE Guardian reader? Arty, vivacious female, 61, happy in own skin, seeks N/S sociable, warm, loving man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360655**

GLASS half full N/S mid 50's woman, seeks other half. Are you a professional man, 50-60 who likes the finer things in life? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363969**

CARING young 62 petite blonde, seeks someone to share doing things with, theatre, dancing and perhaps nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359761**

57YR old lady, works, divorced, likes beach, meals out, theatre, travel, weekends away, seeks white male, 56-61 with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359685**

YOUNG 54yr old female, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest, caring guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669**

SALLY petite, confident lady, happy go lucky, likes dancing, walks, TV, seeks male/soul mate for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362665**

30YR old brunette fit, feminine, attractive, free, single and looking for love with similar fun loving guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365075**

36YR old female looking for mutual companionship with understanding man stuck in a similar rut. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364331**

LORNA 66, nurse, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364237**

FEMALE 64, brown/grey hair, medium build, honest, caring, loving, seeks similar in male, 30-60 for friendship/relationship. Medway. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364253**

LOOKING for my soul mate, 57, lonely, caring, affectionate, likes a drink in good company, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, seeks someone to share life with. Is that you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385172**

BARBARA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. Heathrow. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701**

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359589**

SLIM attractive, elegant female, likes travel, restaurants, cinema, seeks caring, male, 45-55 for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361571**

SALLY independent, intelligent, confident, caring female, seeking a similar soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361575**

INDEPENDENT 52yr old slim, N/S female, likes country walks, swimming, animals, meals/days out, seeks N/S similar aged male for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366099**

MISS Gorgeous, 5ft 8ins, black beauty, sexy, curvy, likes a laugh, happy go lucky, seeks male for no strings fun times. Hackney. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365861**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852**

SUZANNE 35, beautiful blonde, seeks male for chats and a relaxing glass of wine anytime. ACA, status unimportant. City area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342527**

PRETTY woman, slim, black, widow, 39, energetic, seeks white, solvent male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360695**

GORGEOUS lonely lass, 45, looking for some romantic liaisons with younger male, looks important, no chancers. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364415**

MARY 60, good for age, GSOH, likes cooking, meals out, looking for some fun company, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364357**

TINKERBELLE seeks Peter Pan, I'm 36, 5ft 3ins, size 8-10 and am looking for a tall strong man who can connect and make me laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358721**

ATTRACTIVE warm, blonde female, European, 49, seeks honest, generous male, 50 plus who will take care of me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364277**

FEMALE seeks kind, caring white male, 42-50, tidy and clean for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363197**

DEBBIE mid 50's, attractive, likes dancing, music, cinema, theatre, seeks male for companionship. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351419**

FIT lady, 65, thinks she's 40, N/S, loves life, seeks genuine gent, 60-70 N/S for happy loving, exciting times. Gravesend. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353111**

SINGLE mum, 39, likes most things, seeks male with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349999**

OLD fashioned girl, 49, fun, friendly, seeks mature male for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382192**

GENUINE loving female, 40, seeks loving male, 40-50 for friendship and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 345487**

LADY seeks N/S, clean shaven male to appreciate artistic, romantic, feisty, attractive, slimmish, curvy lady of 69 who has not yet joined the wrinklies. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349757**

ATTRACTIVE slim single mum, 44, seeks similar tall male, 40-50, caring, loving and loyal, are you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334393**

SARAH 37, caring, kind, seeks fun, caring guy, 37-49. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346319**

NATALIA attractive, brunette, brown eyes, 40's, N/S, slim, fit, friendly, seeks sincere, N/S, solvent male for love and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344393**

PROFESSIONAL attractive, friendly, black British female, mid 40's, size 10-12 likes socialising, seeks sincere male of any nationality for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341125**

LISA 42, medium build, likes cooking, walks, music, days in/out, WLTM caring, down to earth male, 40-50. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332817**

OUTGOING sincere 5ft 6ins lady WLTM tall, caring interesting male 70's to share lifes adventure. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357959**

FEMININE lady who knows how to treat her man seeks strong minded male to care for, any area London/Surrey/Kent **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356985**

52YR old female, likes walks, animals, theatre, cinema, seeks male for companionship/LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357291**

LATE 20's female seeking older male. Call to hear exactly what I'm like and looking for. I can meet anywhere in London at any time **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356995**

6 F T 4ins male, 37, GSOH, seeks female for friendship and more. Ramsgate/Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366765**

BLACK male, 48, bubbly, seeks curvy, buxom, voluptuous, white female, 18-45 for friendship, maybe more. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366681**

PHIL medium build, blond hair, blue eyes, likes travel, clubs, cinema, meals out, seeks female for fun and friendship. Bexley Heath. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366635**

TALL slim, lonely 53yr old guy, seeks female for loving, tender relationship, age/looks unimportant. Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366941**

SLIM good looking male, likes most things, seeks female for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366631**

IAN young, free, single, 41, likes football, fishing, motor racing, seeks young lady to bring a sparkle back into life, 35-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366205**

49YR old gent, seeking a lady companion, any nationality for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366059**

GEORGE likes sports, socialising, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365975**

TALL mature, attractive male, seeks slim, petite, Asian/Oriental/Latino lady for fun LTR. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352511**

Men Seeking

FUN naughty guy, 60, seeks fun, naughty girl, any age/size. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386052**

ADVENTUROUS attractive young man, 30's, great personality, seeks mature female to share happy loving moments, laughter and amazing spiritual summer. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367973**

IAN caring, thoughtful, romantic, seeks female for friendship/relationship. Dartford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367943**

TALL attractive, mature male, seeks slim, petite, seductive lady for intimate times. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367899**

LEWIS 40, seeks nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367713**

DAVE own hair/teeth, own car/business, likes holidays, golf, gym, meals out, theatre, seeks honest, genuine, slim female with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367559**

SLIM easygoing, friendly male, 50, likes kisses and cuddles, seeks petite female, any age for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385904**

COUNT on me! 59yr old male, GSOH, likes socialising, dining, countryside, weekends away, seeks lady for LTR. Shepperton. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367277**

PROFESSIONAL male, 62, generous, fun loving, seeks non assertive, busty lady for special relationship. Farnham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367191**

DAVID 58, its Spring and I am looking for an easygoing lady for a LTR. East Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367157**

6FT male, romantic, GSOH, caring, seeks female, 35-45 for friendship, possible romance. Single mum welcome. Sheerness. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368249**

SHY average looking male, seeks funny girl to make me laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368219**

DAVID 47, fair hair, likes enjoying life, seeks N/S slim, pretty lady for LTR. Romney Marsh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368159**

ATTRACTIVE blond, blue eyed male, 47, HIV positive, genuine, sincere, GSOH, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere Oriental/black/Asian female. Essex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368149**

SOUL love? Stylish male, 5ft 8ins, into music, films, art etc, seeks shapely, attractive female, 28-38 to share enjoyable times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366795**

ANDREW 59 seeks similar aged female for LTR. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366783**

Gay Seeking

IAN 42, inexperienced bisexual, seeks male for fun times. Dartford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367941**

53YR old bi male, 5ft 11ins, slim, seeks gay/bi male, experienced, up to 65 from Faversham/Sittingbourne area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367829**

GAY English guy 34, Luton based, non scene, seeks older, retired gent, 70 plus for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368163**

Contact members by phone: 0906 515 7112

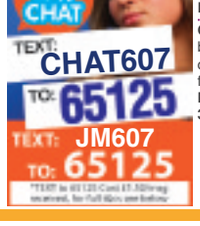
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TELEVISION **Coming up soon**

Winkleman referees in the battle of wit and celeb ego



King Of

Friday, June 17, 9.30pm, Channel 4

FANS of Strictly Come Dancing are still reeling from the revelation that Claudia Winkleman will not be hosting its spin-off show It Takes Two this year.

It's hard to imagine the programme without her surreal wit, flights of fancy and uncontrollable giggles, but at least she's back on the box this week with a new six-part comedy chat show in which she and her guests take a light-hearted looks at some of the nation's favourite things.

In kind of a reversal to Paul Merton's BBC Two classic Room 101, King Of decides what the best things in life are.

Cropping up throughout the run will be an eclectic mix of subjects, including musicals, newsreaders, supermodels, pets, artists and take-aways. What Claudia and her guests then have to decide is which of them are the champions.

The first edition sees Sarah Millican and Chris Evans enter into a debate with the studio audience. We're expecting diva-style behaviour from the celebs if their choice isn't named king by the end of the night.

Winkleman said: "I have been playing King Of with friends and family forever. I am completely over the moon I'm now being allowed to do it on the telly. What's the king of condiments? No, it's not ketchup"

The six-part series was commissioned by Channel 4's commissioning editor for entertainment, Darren Smith, who said: "Seeing Claudia in a comedy entertainment context is a real treat.

"Everyone knows how charming and brainy she is, and now you can see how incredibly funny she can be. We're hugely excited."

With producers such as Ruth Wallace (Mock The Week), Chris Little (League Of Their Own) and Kate Staples (Would I Lie To You), King Of is surely going to put laughter back into Friday-night comedy. This is just another great example of the ideas team at Channel 4 working overtime to surpass other terrestrial competitors.



NOW THERE'S A THOUGHT: Claudia Winkleman says that she has been playing King Of forever



KEY MAN: Music helps the choir go round

This 8,000-person choir will be heard

The Choir That Rocks

Thursday, June 16, 9pm, ITV One

ITV'S new series is something far away from the norm of its usual style.

The Choir That Rocks is a documentary following five months on the road with the largest amateur singing choir in the UK.

With more than 8,000 members having 150 rehearsals in 90 towns across the country, the rock choir is an entity that can be understood only with the watching of this show.

The programme focuses on founder Caroline Redman Lusher, who has booked Wembley Arena with plans to get the whole choir to sing together for the first time.

Lusher is the brains behind the whole idea and the first thing we learn is that she is a remarkable woman. She started performing professionally at the age of 15, is a gifted pianist and violinist, has appeared on the West End stage, and spent time as a teacher before launching her most successful venture.

"Rock Choir has organically grown from the love of pop music and the desire to make people happy," she said. "I'm on a journey and now there are thousands of people on that journey with me.

"It is unique and it's a culmination personally of everything I have ever done, learnt or experienced, coming together to provide something special for the UK."

This is one talented group of performers and the documentary allows viewers a unique insight ito the often-strange world of the mega-choir.

The three-part mini series also follows choir-leaders Nic Slack and Stef Conner as they head across the nation publicising both the organisation and its upcoming Wembley date.

A documentary is not a documentary without some background research on its subject, so the series charts the choir's history to date. We also get a look into the lives and stories of some of the choir's participants. A must-watch.

Luther dusts off the cuffs for a returns to the force

THE second series of the latest BBC crime drama involving the troubled and relentless London detective John Luther.

It's a year since the death of his estranged wife Zoe and his best friend Ian Reed's betrayal, but crime never stops and neither will Luther. While old acquaintance Alice (Ruth Wilson) passes time in a psychiatric unit and DS Justin Ripley (Warren Brown) languishes in uniform, Luther has been shut away with dusty files working on cold cases. Thankfully, his angst is tempered

Luther

Tuesdays, 9pm, BBC One

by his new friendship with Mark North (Paul McGann) and their chess games – a bond formed through Zoe, the person who once divided them.

Former investigating officer Martin Schenk (Dermot Crowley) offers him a role in the new Serious And Serial Unit, and obviously Luther accepts. He is determined to devote his energy to reinstating Ripley as a rising star in the police force and help those whom he hurt or compromised in the past, including Alice.

The team is joined by ambitious DS Erin Gray (Nikki Amuka-Bird) and their first case together involves a man who hides behind a Punch mask as he brutally slays his victims.

Look out for a guest appearance from The Wire's Idris Elba. "Luther takes viewers to places where TV drama rarely goes," he said. "It's an emotional roller-coaster, full of unexpected twists and turns."

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HOMES





Do you need more space? Why not save yourself from all the stress of moving house by extending into a stylish log cabin?

JOHNSONS Garden Buildings prides itself on being one of the highest-quality suppliers of log cabins available in the UK and has become a name that people associate with quality and reliability.

Offering an extensive range of timber buildings to suit all budgets and requirements, Johnsons is also able to offer a bespoke service, meaning you can even design your own building, made to measure.

All the log cabins are made from the highest-quality Siberian spruce timber with an interlocking system. This is far superior to the conventional panel options currently offered by other manufacturers.

With the steep rise in house prices over the last 10 years and the growth of people wanting to work from home, the low cost of installing a log cabin has obviously helped its popularity.

All cabins can be used as summer houses, home offices, guest houses, playrooms, gyms or even to house saunas and hot tubs. Whether it's an extra space to play or work, or just somewhere to chill out, if you're looking for something that looks fantastic and is competitively priced, then a log cabin could be the solution.

Johnsons has recently expanded, and now has four display sites across Kent:

- Old Thanet Way, Chestfield, Whitstable. Telephone: 01227 793717.
- Notcutts Garden Centre, Newnham Court, Bearsted Road, Maidstone. Telephone: 01622 730777.
- Polhill Garden Centre, London Road, Badgers Mount, Sevenoaks. Telephone: 01959 533466.
- Tunbridge Wells Garden Centre, Eridge Road, Tunbridge Wells. Telephone: 01892 546108.

The newest site is the Tunbridge Wells display village, which is based in Tunbridge Wells Garden Centre on the Eridge Road (formerly Wyevale Garden Centre).

Johnsons probably has the largest display of outdoor living solutions in the South East, and with more than 100 different shapes and sizes to choose from, you won't be disappointed.

The sales offices are open from 9am-5pm Monday to Saturday and 10am-4pm on Sundays.

The sales team has many years of experience in the industry and will be more than happy to assist and answer any questions you may have regarding your building.

Johnsons Garden Buildings offers free site surveys and would recommend this service for its larger bespoke cabins.

Most wooden buildings can be installed without planning permission, but if you are concerned, speak to one of the members of the sales team.

When purchasing a building from Johnsons, there will be several upgrade options available to you such as double-glazing, roof and floor insulation, electrics and different colours and styles of roofing and flooring, all of which can be

Log cabins

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**









■ Above, the display site at Tunbridge Wells enables you to see a wide range of options available to ensure you choose the perfect log cabin for your needs

seen when visiting one of the display sites.

Johnsons specialises in completing the whole project from start to finish, from initial design to the finished article, including delivery of the building, basework, erection and more.

Once the cabin has been erected, your building will come with a 12-month structural warranty for that extra peace of mind.

So, if you're running out of space but are not keen on the upheaval of moving, then Johnsons has the solution for you.

Log cabins come at a fraction of the price of conservatories and extensions and add value to your property. They will transform your garden into a liveable space that you'll be able to enjoy to the full.

With prices starting at just £1,349 from a company that prides itself on quality, service and customer satisfaction, Johnsons Garden Buildings is definitely worth a visit.



■ From small storage areas to large cabins suitable for use as summer houses, home offices, guest houses, playrooms, gyms or even to house a hot tub, Johnsons Garden Buildings has a wide selection of reasonably-priced log cabins from which you can choose

HOMES



Hop over to the manor



Frogholt Manor near Folkestone

£1,500,000

■ ENTRANCE HALL ■ THREE RECEPTION ROOMS ■ KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM ■ UTILITY ROOM ■ CLOAKROOM ■ TWO EN-SUITE BEDROOMS ■ THREE FURTHER BEDROOMS ■ TWO FAMILY BATHROOMS ■ ANNEXE: ENTRANCE HALL ■ LIVING ROOM ■ KITCHEN ■ TWO BEDROOMS ■ BATHROOM ■ MATURE GROUNDS EXTENDING TO ALMOST FOUR ACRES

FROGHOLT Manor is an outstanding country home nestling in a wooded valley beneath the North Downs in the picturesque hamlet of the same name, between Hythe and Folkestone.

It is ideal for anyone seeking the best of both worlds – privacy and seclusion, as well as good rail/road connections to London and the Continent.

It is situated only five minutes' drive from the M20 and Channel Tunnel terminal and within easy reach of the High Speed Rail Link, which you can join at Folkestone and Ashford (four and 12 miles respectively).

The cathedral city of Canterbury, with

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excellent state and private education facilities, thriving university and good shopping, is some 15 miles away.

The charming, unspoilt Cinque Ports town of Hythe, with seafront, picturesque Royal Military Canal, four supermarkets, restaurants and leisure pursuits such as golf and sailing, is a very short drive away.

With parts dating back to the 17th century and later additions, this Grade II-listed property has been sympathetically restored to an exacting standard by the present owner, incorporating a wealth of oak beams. No expense has been spared and true craftsmanship is evident throughout the house.

Automatic gates lead to an extensive brick-paved forecourt area, where there is a double garage with storage above. The main house has a dramatic oak-panelled and beamed vaulted hall and staircase, leading to a galleried landing with oak floor.

The drawing room is double-aspect with French doors to the garden, an inglenook fireplace and flagstone floor and the luxury family kitchen/breakfast room also has an inglenook, cream Shaker-style units, granite tops, island unit and Rangemaster appliances in black.

Bedrooms total five in all, two of which are en-suite with stylish contemporary bathrooms (free-standing baths and oak fittings), while there are two family bathrooms.

Floors are natural stone on the ground floor and polished oak floors in the bedrooms, with tiled floors in the bathrooms.

The annexe is self-contained with stone floors, a vaulted living room with a brick open fireplace and wood-burning stove, oak kitchen, two bedrooms and a well-fitted bathroom.

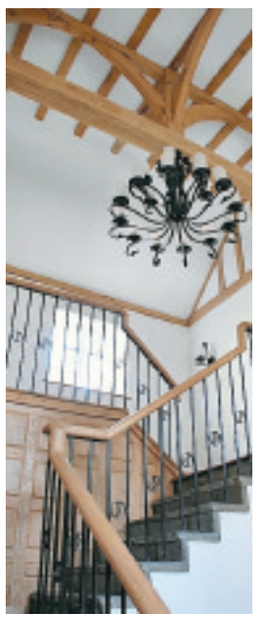
Central heating is oil-fired and there are substantial column radiators throughout.

The magical grounds surrounding the house amount to almost four acres, with a host of beautiful, mature trees defining the boundaries and creating sheltered nooks and crannies.

Winding paths take you alongside the Seabrook stream, split-level lakes, ragstone bridge and weir and lawns and a paddock. There is planning permission for a stable block and tack room for those with equestrian interests, and there are many walks and rides accessible nearby at the foot of the North Downs.

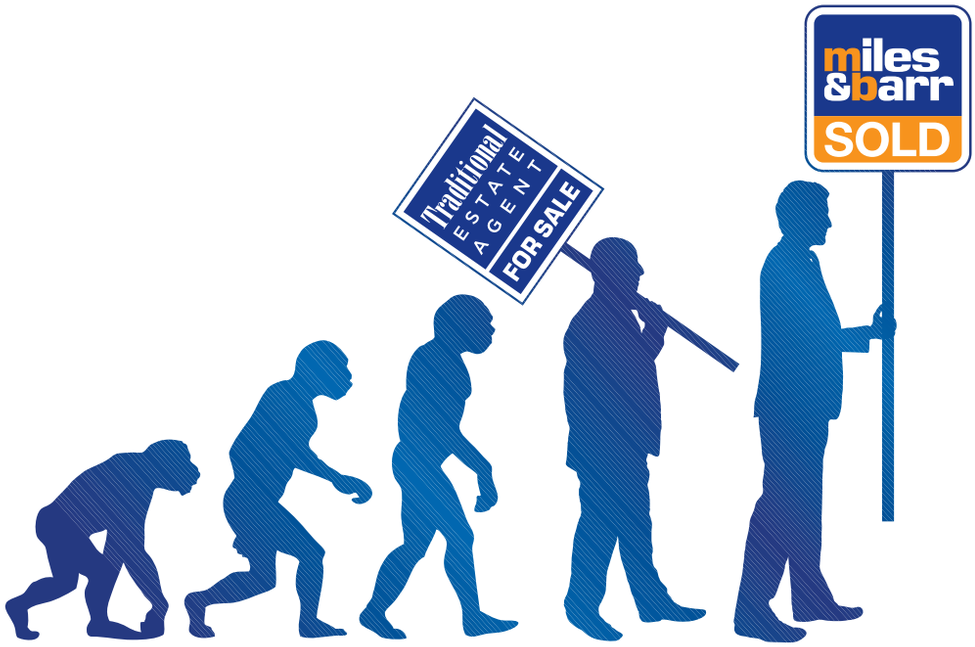
The approximate total habitable floor area is 6,000 sq ft (561 sq m).

For further details, or to arrange a viewing of this stunning country home, phone Lawrence & Co on 01303 266022.





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HOMES

Margate property report

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SCENIC: Margate harbour at dusk, above, and the new seaside Turner Contemporary gallery, below

Faded resort waits on Turner effect

WHILE property prices in Margate are fairly flat, there is genuine hope that values in the seaside town will rise steadily over the next three to five years.

This positive mid-term forecast is spurred by the opening of the Turner Contemporary gallery, the renaissance of the 'Old Town' and the high-speed rail link to the capital, all of which, it is hoped, will increase demand for homes in the area.



But while the future might look a little rosier than it has for years, Stuart Barr, of Miles & Barr, warned that there was unlikely to be any change in the market in the coming two years.

"Prices appear to be fairly stable," he said. "We're selling 50 per cent of what we are listing at the moment.

"Since the crash in 2008, when prices fell by an average of 20 per cent, we have seen the market claw back approximately 10 per cent.

"Buyers currently have a lot of choice, so the average sale time is now 72 days, compared with 42 days this time last year. We don't anticipate too much change in the short term as lenders are still cautious regarding higher loan-to-value lending. But some reports suggest prices will start to increase by 2014."

Mr Barr said there was strong demand for two- and three-bed terraces in the rental market up to £550 per calendar month but sale of property over £250,000 was slow-going.

With regard to current public perception of the Margate property market and house values, Mr Barr said it was new territory for him.

"In my 20 years as an agent predominantly in Thanet I have never known there to be such mixed opinion about prices.

"However good, bad or indifferent a market-place is perceived to be, a good agent will be able to demonstrate what prices are being achieved for property in any given location."

The average price for property in Margate is about £144,000, below that of neighbouring Thanet towns Ramsgate (£148,000) and Broadstairs (£206,000).

PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT ON **MARGATE**

What makes it special

ONCE one of England's most lively tourist resorts, there is no getting away from the fact that Margate has suffered decades of decline and it has many social and economic issues to this day. The town's unemployment rate is significantly higher than the UK average, a lasting reminder of the dark 'dole-on-sea' days of the 1980s, when out-of-work people from across the country were encouraged to set up home in Margate's former bed-and-breakfast hotels. The high street has been identified as the worst in the country and the number of asylum-seekers in the area keeps immigration a hot issue. However, Margate's coastal location and superb beaches remain its greatest hope. There is a widespread view that a quicker high-speed rail service to the capital is all that is needed to kick-start the town, bringing in the investment needed to return Margate to its former glories.

Room to improve

WHILE the area has been boosted by the opening of the Turner Contemporary art gallery, much more is needed to encourage investment and create jobs in a bid to get the town back on its feet. It is hoped the seafront gallery will act as a catalyst for genuine regeneration.

Prices

THE average price for under-offer stock in Margate is £144,378, slightly behind Ramsgate, which stands at £147,879, and Broadstairs, where the average tops £206,000.

Shops

THE high street has taken knock after knock, with big-name stores pulling out of the area one by one. The vacancy rate of Margate's shops



stands at a staggering 37.4 per cent, making it the most desolate high street in the country. Yet again, it is hoped that Turner Contemporary will come to the rescue in helping revive the retail sector. The early success of The Hoy pub opposite the gallery should encourage entrepeneurs to follow the example of the local company that revived the venue after 14 years of it lying derelict. Indeed, a number of restaurants and cafes have sprouted in anticipation of the much-lauded Turner effect.

Schools

MARGATE'S sole secondary school is Hartsdown Technology College, which has consistently delivered exam results above Government targets. Margate teenagers also venture out of town for their education, taking up places at Thanet's grammar schools, Dane Court in Broadstairs and Chatham House and Clarendon House Grammar Schools in Ramsgate; another option is Westgate's Ursuline College. There is a selection of primary schools in Margate, including Drapers Mill, Salmestone, Holy Trinity and St John's C of E and Garlinge.

Connections

HEAD west on the A299 to the seaside towns of Herne Bay and Whitstable and on to the Medway towns and London via the M2. Alternatively, point your car south-west along the A28 to Canterbury and the heart of Kent. The A256, situated due south, leads to Sandwich and Dover. London can be reached by train from Margate, but the vast number of stops on the journey frustrates commuters.

What's on

IT'S becoming something of a running theme, but this section would not be complete without noting the Turner Contemporary. Aside from the art, Margate boasts two notable theatres: the Theatre Royal, the second oldest theatre in the country, and the Tom Thumb, which is the second smallest in the country. For stage productions and gigs, the Winter Gardens is always worth a look – it has hosted some top names in recent years. An annual jazz festival, held every July, is popular, but for a quiet piece of heaven head to the Shell Grotto, an underground labyrinth discovered in 1835 which is covered in more than four million shells. Its age remains unknown.

Around and about

MARGATE'S fellow coastal destinations are all worth a look and have their own charms. Herne Bay is popular with watersports fans and the perfect place for a stroll on the seafront. Broadstairs, meanwhile, has a laid-back feel and a top-class mini golf course, although more serious golfers will probably head for North Foreland. Flying fans should take in the Spitfire Museum near Manston, which has priceless items linked to the famous wartime aircraft.

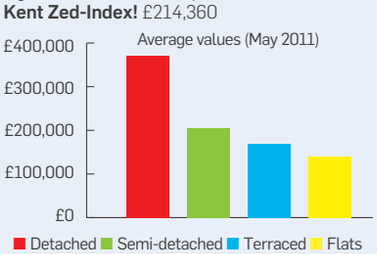
NEXT WEEK: PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT FOCUSES ON **FOLKESTONE**

HOME VALUES IN KENT

WHAT IS THE ZED-INDEX!

The Zed-Index! is the average home value in a given area based on Zoopla Estimates

Kent Zed-Index! £214,360



Area	Turnover	Zed-index!
Ashford	16.2%	£212,592
Aylesford	15.8%	£212,517
Belvedere	17.4%	£163,077
Bexley	15.6%	£286,774
Bexleyheath	16.7%	£234,315
Birchington	20.2%	£188,766
Broadstairs	18.8%	£206,515
Canterbury	15.2%	£224,912
Chatham	17.5%	£159,945
Cranbrook	13.3%	£368,376
Dartford	15.9%	£201,329
Deal	17.4%	£184,048
Dover	14.4%	£153,251
Edenbridge	13.4%	£341,337
Erith	12.7%	£168,565
Faversham	16.4%	£204,352
Folkestone	16.6%	£170,161
Gillingham	16.2%	£161,315
Gravesend	14.2%	£191,166
Greenhithe	18.9%	£188,408
Herne Bay	19.0%	£181,481
Hythe	17.9%	£234,244
Longfield	15.2%	£272,000
Maidstone	15.8%	£219,905
Margate	16.8%	£144,378
New Romney	20.1%	£197,054
Queenborough	12.3%	£109,983
Rainham	13.6%	£180,391
Ramsgate	16.2%	£147,879
Rochester	15.9%	£176,168
Romney Marsh	17.0%	£175,486
Sandwich	16.0%	£228,763
Sevenoaks	16.2%	£446,408
Sheerness	14.8%	£145,668
Sidcup	17.5%	£240,678
Sittingbourne	16.1%	£183,469
Snodland	16.0%	£157,353
Swanley	13.1%	£212,508
Swanscombe	13.3%	£151,504
Tenterden	16.7%	£294,941
Tonbridge	14.6%	£308,843
Tunbridge Wells	18.1%	£302,864
Welling	16.7%	£220,626
West Malling	18.0%	£331,498
Westerham	17.9%	£305,915
Westgate-On-Sea	18.7%	£153,177
Whitstable	19.7%	£230,142

Source: homes24.co.uk/kent


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£499,995

Royal Esplanade
LOCATED on the sought-after Royal Esplanade in Westgate overlooking St Mildred's Bay, and boasting a south- facing garden, this home is a must-see for any serious buyer.
This property is presented to a very high standard throughout. The accommodation consists of an open-plan L-shaped lounge dining room, a downstairs toilet, conservatory, fully-fitted kitchen, boiler room, four double bedrooms, with the master suite boasting a juliette balcony, an en-suite shower room and dressing room, and a family bathroom with access from one of the bedrooms. Furthermore, this luxury home boasts a separate office, block-paved off-street parking, mature gardens to the front and rear and stunning sea views.
The house is in a convenient location, with the train station and a supermarket both only half a mile away.
AGENT: Miles & Barr
01843 570500



St Mildred's Bay sea views from luxury Westgate home



Tardis feel of large family five-bed home

£279,995

Cliff Avenue
THIS five-bedroom home is something of a Tardis, consisting of 10 spacious rooms across three floors. The groundfloor accommodation includes a dining room, lounge and kitchen, while the first-floor plays host to four bedrooms and a family bathroom. The second floor comprises the master bedroom, overlooking the large rear garden, and an en-suite.
AGENT: Oakwood Homes
01843 222707



Split-level garden adds value to superb home

£347,500

Dent-de-Lion Court
A LARGE family is needed to fill this beautiful four-bedroom property in a quiet area of Westgate-on-Sea.
The ground floor consists of a bright reception and hallway, sitting room, twin-aspect kitchen/diner, dining area and cloakroom. The first floor boasts a master bedroom with en-suite, two further double rooms and a fourth smaller bedroom. There is also a family bathroom. While the interior is plush and finished to a high standard throughout, some of the property's major selling points are outside.
The rear garden is beautifully maintained on a split level with tree-lined borders.
A converted stable block and separate shed can be found towards the bottom of the garden and there is also a large garage.
AGENT: Oakwood Homes
01843 222707



Oak flooring in newly-built two-bed flat

£149,995

Morningside
THIS bright and airy home boasts underfloor heating throughout, oak flooring, high-quality fixtures and fittings, a video-phone entry system and allocated off-street parking.
The accommodation is designed sympathetically, with the lounge diner giving direct access to a sunny south-facing garden.
It comprises two double bedrooms, the master boasting an en-suite shower room, family bathroom, modern fitted kitchen and enclosed gardens to the front and rear.
AGENT: Miles & Barr
01843 570500



Detached home in cul-de-sac

£250,000

St Mary's Avenue
THE quiet life can be enjoyed at this charming three-bedroom detached family home in a peaceful cul-de-sac, which boasts views over St Trinity Church to the front. The accommodation comprises a 13ft dining room, spacious 21ft lounge overlooking the rear garden, fitted kitchen which opens out to a light and bright conservatory and a cloakroom on the ground floor.
The first floor includes a newly-fitted bathroom and three attractive bedrooms.
The immaculate gardens surrounding the property are beautifully landscaped and offer a wealth of greenery.
AGENT: Cooke & Co
01843 231833

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Rural views of Minster

£900 pcm

Watchester Lane
THE beautiful countryside views available from this stunning four-bedroom Minster house make this already-desirable family home even more appealing. The accommodation comprises a generous entrance hall, downstairs toilet, large lounge/diner, spacious modern kitchen, good-sized decking, a lawn garden, garage and tarmacked front driveway. The unfurnished detached property, which is available now, is conveniently placed in close proximity to shops, train station and other amenities.
AGENT: Prospects UK
01843 606058



Large detached four-bedroom home

£900 pcm

Oakwood
MAKING an ideal family home, this four-bedroom detached house has solid-wood flooring throughout the ground floor. The ground floor consists of two receptions rooms, a conservatory, fitted kitchen and cloakroom. Upstairs, there are four bedrooms, the master having fitted wardrobes and en-suite facilities. There is a large rear garden and off-road parking to the front.
AGENT: Lovetts
01843 848382



Refurbished flat in prime seaside spot

£500 pcm

Fort Crescent
THIS recently-refurbished two-bedroom basement apartment is set in the sought-after seaside location of Fort Crescent. With easy access to schools, Margate town and good transport links, this property is ideal for a small family or working professionals. It has been redecorated, with new carpets throughout and a modern kitchen among its newest and best features. Further benefits include gas central heating and rear courtyard.
AGENT: The Property Tree
01843 230 786



Split-level maisonette near station

£525 pcm

Garfield Road
COMMUTERS will love this unfurnished two-bedroom split-level maisonette as it is situated within a few minutes' walk of the town's train station. The accommodation consists of two good-sized bedrooms, a lounge, separate fitted kitchen and large bathroom. The property is conveniently located within easy walking distance of shops, the sea and a supermarket.
AGENT: Miles & Barr
01843 572000



Spacious flat with sea view

£495 pcm

Ethelbert Crescent
THIS superb two-bedroom groundfloor flat comprises two large double bedrooms, spacious lounge with sea views, modern kitchen with oven, hob and extractor and modern bathroom with corner bath and separate shower. The property is unfurnished with gas central heating and double-glazing throughout. The flat has recently been redecorated and newly carpeted throughout. The landlord has agreed to pay the £100 referencing fee on this property, subject to terms.
AGENT: Cooke & Co
01843 600911



Sundrenched gardens

£950 pcm

Northdown Road
A LARGE private sundrenched rear garden is among the key features of this charming three-bedroom bungalow in sought-after Palm Bay. The unfurnished property has just undergone redecorating and had a new kitchen and bathroom installed and new carpets laid. The accommodation includes a reception, bathroom and garage.
AGENT: Prospects UK
01843 606058

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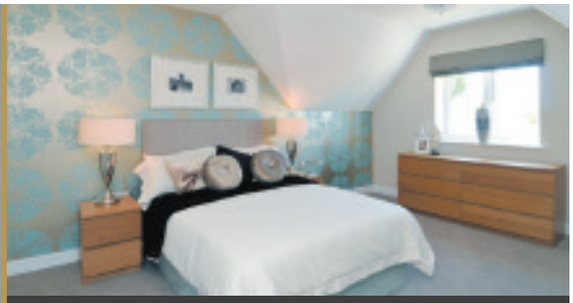
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First GEAR
MOTORING NEWS

- BMW 1-Series diesel latest green machine
- The new Mazda6 means business
- Hyundai i40 tourer to take on Mondeo market



Roof down, power up in Nissan's all-new Z Roadster

Driving

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Rough with the smooth

Cash-strapped Swedish giant Saab re-Bjorn with its latest 9-3

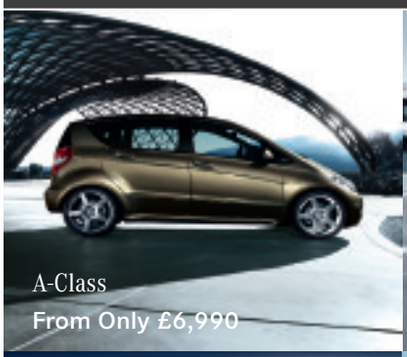
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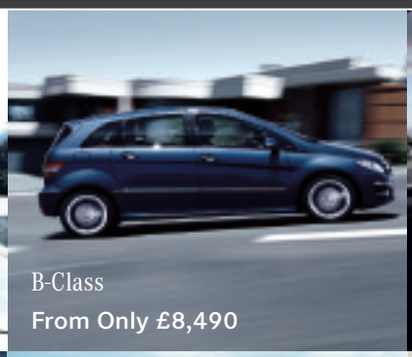


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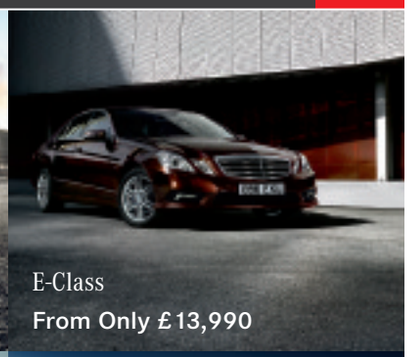
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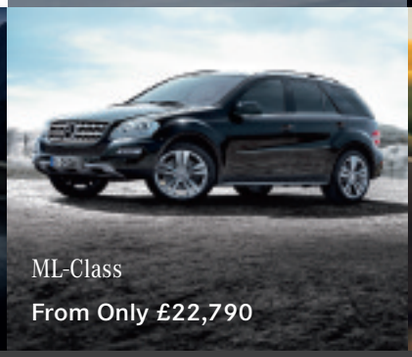

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Saab and 9-3 re-Bjorn

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT has been a bumpy ride for Saab of late.

The Swedish motor icon needed another cash injection a few weeks ago from a Chinese manufacturer to ensure its future, just two years on from erstwhile parent General Motors (GM) preparing to pull the plug on the brand.

At that point, one of Sweden's most famous exports along with Abba, was 're-Bjorn' as partner to another re-born company, Spyker of Holland.

It was a curious marriage, though; Saab is more lower-volume executive brand than mass producer, while its new partner makes ultra-low-volume hand-crafted supercars.

Perhaps not surprisingly then in these cash-strapped times, the new independent group needed yet more cash backing; enter the Chinese and new possibilities for premium sales in their home market, one of the fastest-growing and strongest in the world at the moment.

And there is huge goodwill elsewhere and notably in the UK for one of the most technologically-revered brands in the industry.

The now separately owned Saab aerospace company began car production in 1949, majoring on aerodynamic styling and innovative engineering.

It promoted front-wheel drive and championed turbocharging, realising that boosting its four-cylinder engines was a cheaper route to higher outputs than developing a new six-cylinder unit to take on German rivals.

Turbocharging helped it to develop its most successful model ever, the 1980s-vintage 900, yet the company's finances were faltering and GM took a hold on the company in 1989.

Fiercely loyal 'Saabites' then became increasingly angry at what they saw as GM cloning within a once distinctive Saab line-up; in searching for economies of scale needed to make Saab profitable, GM watered down the innovation and bravery that had created such a loyal following.

And much GM technology still underpins Saabs even after gaining independence – the all-new 9-5 cannot escape the feel that it is modelled on the Vauxhall Insignia.

And yet the brand's workhorse model and long-running 9-3, launched at the height of GM control, shows how the Swedes dared to be as different as possible under GM.

Newly facelifted – again – the fluidity of the original design still has freshness and the tweaks to the front give the car its most muscular stance yet, while interior has a much-needed upgrade without disturbing the famed aircraft style dashboard and the state-of-the-art seats.

In recent years, and like many rivals, Saab has concentrated on turbocharged diesels for better economy and emissions, but its old expertise in petrol turbocharging is still much in evidence on cars such as the 2.0T Aero we have just tested.

Allied to a responsive front-wheel drive chassis, the 9-3 remains a driver's car and while it is actually now quite old when measured against rivals, it can still be rewarding to drive as well as attractive to look at.

Don't just check out the saloon, as tested here though, because the 9-3 range also includes the Sportwagon – a classy looking estate to rival the ubiquitous BMW 3-Series and the Audi A4 Avant – and the Convertible.

The current car is currently celebrating 25 years since the original 900 Convertible was released and put the wind up German premium brands in that rather exclusive sector.

We've said before that the 'croptop' is the ace up Saab's sleeve, being good for brand image.

There is also another potential trump card. Saab now has an excellent all-drive system known as XWD to rival Audi's Quattro sub-branding and it works superbly on the 9-3 – we can vouch for that after testing it on an ice track.

The Saab saga continues.

SAAB 9-3 AERO 2.0T AUTO : PRICE £28,795



MUSCULAR: The Saab 9-3 has undergone yet another facelift, with tweaks to the front and a much-needed upgrade on the interior

FACT FILE

Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Reliabilty:	★★★★
How green?:	★★
Road tax:	£425/year

Kent dealers:

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Hy on time for the latest i40

AMBITIOUS Korean marque Hyundai says the first version of its stylish new Mondeo class offering, the i40, will hit UK roads by September.

The Tourer or estate – to be followed quickly by a saloon – will start at £18,395 and feature the usual generous spec and five-year warranty plus some of the lowest taxes and running costs in its class.



1-Series gets a diesel boost

IT still isn't pretty, but BMW's all-new second generation 1-Series is proof that there's still life in the internal combustion engine.

The headline diesel, the 116d, delivers road tax-beating low emissions and averages more than 70mpg. Driving satisfaction is also guaranteed, with BMW reaffirming its belief in rear-wheel drive.



New Mazda6 the business

KENT-based Mazda UK has underlined its strength in the corporate market by launching a new Business Line version of its Mondeo class Mazda6.

The Japanese marque's Dartford HQ prices the new version at £18,300, with a thrifty 2.2-litre diesel engine placing it in the 20 per cent benefit-in-kind tax bracket for 2011-12.

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MOTORING

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Nissan's latest 'Z' packs a potent punch

1ST **DRIVE**

BY SAM DAVISON editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

UNUSUALLY sunny it may have been for some weeks, but I knew I would mess it up for all by road testing perhaps the ultimate opentop sports car – Nissan's 370Z Roadster.

Right on cue, the Law of Sod was enforced and the heavens opened as I opted to wax lyrical about popping the 370Z's roof for true wind in the hair thrills behind a brutish engine in an equally muscular looking roadster.

The 370Z has heritage stretching back to the original 'Z' sports coupé, launched here in the 70s, with the 370Z taking over the baton in 2009 and ticking boxes left open by its predecessor, the 350Z.

Nobody doubted that car's value for money, but its equally tempting replacement (from £31,250) manages to be sleeker and more stylish yet slightly shorter, while an intrusive bracing bar behind the 350Z's front seats has been lowered and camouflaged without affecting the stiffness of a car that is also 32 kilos lighter.

But don't think the 'Z' has gone soft. The 324bhp 3.7-litre V6 – up from the 350Z's 309bhp – sounds brutal when challenged, revs cleanly and delivers 0-60mph in 5.5 seconds in six-speed manual form, yet feels refined and muted on a high-speed motorway dash.

But it's hard work in traffic, with its heavy clutch even though the muscular low-down grunt of the V6 minimises gearchanging; the seven-speed auto option (from £35,750) might be preferable if you want more all-round ability.

However, the manual does have Synchro Rev Control (SRC), described as a "fully synchronised down/up shift rev control system allowing drivers of any skill level to experience perfectly smooth gear shifts every time."

It can be switched off though if, like me, you prefer to blip the throttle on the down changes.

Direct steering and a balanced rear-driven chassis make it a real enthusiast's croptop and fantastic value against obvious rivals like the Audi TT, BMW Z4 and Porsche Boxster.

And while the Nissan doesn't have the same badge cachet, it need not doff its cap here on quality and finish.

That includes the fast-folding canvas roof; yes, folding hard tops may be the vogue now, but they add to cost, usually eat into precious coupé boot space and, some might say, mar the classic open-top sports car heritage.

That heritage doesn't come cheap in another way though: enthusiastic driving will take you well below the car's official average of 25mpg and it sits in the highest category (£950) for road tax due to its 262g/km of CO2 emissions – more than 2.5 times the 99g/km that rates exemption from that duty.

NISSAN 370Z ROADSTER PRICE £31,250 **FACT FILE**

Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★
Value:	★★★★★
Reliabilty:	★★★★
How green?:	★
Road tax:	£950/year
Best rival:	Porsche Boxter

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FIAT

2010 (10) FIAT 500 BY DIESEL DUALOGIC 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 7000 miles £10,995
2010 (10) FIAT PUNTO EVO DYNAMIC DUALOGIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 500 miles £9,495

FUSION

2010 (60) FORD FUSION TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 3000 miles £10,995
2010 (10) FORD FUSION ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles £9,995
2008 (08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, SEA GREY, 3000 miles £7,995
2009 (09) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles £7,495
2008 (08) FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO, OCEAN BLUE, 20000 miles £5,995

CITROEN

2009 (59) CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 350 miles £8,995
2008 (58) CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles £7,995
2008 (57) CITROEN C3 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 2000 miles £6,495

CORSA

2010 (60) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 750 miles £11,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles £9,495
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 4000 miles £7,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 5000 miles £6,495
2006 (06) VAUXHALL CORSA LIFE 12V TWINPORT MTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 27000 miles £4,995

MAZDA

2008 (58) MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 miles £9,995
2008 (08) MAZDA 3 3 TS2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £8,995
2007 (57) MAZDA 2 2 CAPELLA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles £6,495
2007 (56) MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £5,495
2006 (56) MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 22000 miles £4,995

SUZUKI

2009 (59) SUZUKI GRAND VITARA SZ5 ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLUE, 5000 miles £15,995
2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995
2007 (57) SUZUKI SX4 GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles £7,495
2009 (59) SUZUKI ALTO SZ4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £6,995

TOYOTA

2006 (56) TOYOTA RAV-4 XT4 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 35000 miles £12,995
2010 (60) TOYOTA YARIS TR VVT-I SENSODRIVE HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 960 miles £10,995
2010 (10) TOYOTA AYGO BLUE VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, CARIBBEAN BLUE, 6000 miles £7,995
2005 (05) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles £5,995
2007 (57) TOYOTA AYGO BLACK VVT-I MM 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles £5,995
2003 (03) TOYOTA YARIS CDX VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 46000 miles £4,995

NISSAN

2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £17,995
2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 7000 miles £16,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FIRED IRON, 7000 miles £15,995
2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FADED DENIM, 18000 miles £15,995
2008 (58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 12000 miles £15,495
2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 10000 miles £14,995
2007 (57) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 12000 miles £13,995
2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 17000 miles £12,995
2007 (57) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 18000 miles £12,995
2010 (60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, INFERNO RED, 2000 miles £11,995
2010 (60) NISSAN CUBE KAIZEN 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 3000 miles £11,995
2011 (60) NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 3000 miles £11,495
2010 (10) NISSAN MICRA N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, CHAMPAGNE , 9000 miles £9,995
2010 (59) NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 5000 miles £9,995
2008 (08) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles £8,995
2009 (59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles £8,995
2009 (09) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £8,495
2008 (58) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 7000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, EMOTION RED, 6000 miles £7,495
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £6,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 18000 miles £6,995
2008 (08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, EMOTION RED, 11000 miles £6,995
2008 (08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 11000 miles £6,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £6,995
2008 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £6,995
2008 (08) NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, ORANGE, 21000 miles £6,495
2006 (56) NISSAN NOTE SE MPV AUTO, ORANGE, 21000 miles £5,995
2006 (56) NISSAN MICRA INITIA 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles £5,995
2008 (08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, BLACK, 24000 miles £5,995
2006 (56) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles £5,495
2005 (05) NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles £4,995
2005 (05) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 5000 miles £4,995
2004 (54) NISSAN ALMERA TINO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £4,995
2005 (9) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles £4,995
2005 (54) NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFE LATTE, 9000 miles £4,995
2005 (55) NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 39000 miles £4,995
2005 (05) NISSAN ALMERA S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles £4,995
2004 (54) NISSAN MICRA SE 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 32000 miles £4,695

LAND ROVER

2009 (59) LAND ROVER FREELANDER TD4 S TURBO ESTATE AUTO 4x4, GREY, 6000 miles £19,995

ASTRA HATCHBACKS

2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, PANACOTTA, 15000 miles £9,995
2009 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £9,995
2009 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 3DR HATCH AUTO, TECHNICAL GREY, 5000 miles £9,495
2010 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles £9,495
2009 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 2000 miles £8,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 14000 miles £8,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £8,495
2009 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA SXI 1.4 16V 3DR, GREY, 18000 miles £8,495
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 11000 miles £7,495
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 20000 miles £6,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 14000 miles £6,495
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles £6,495
2007 (07) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, PEACOCK BLUE, 3000 miles £5,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £5,995
2008 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 16000 miles £5,995

NEW MODEL ASTRA

2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 900 miles £14,995
2010 (60) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles £13,995
2010 (60) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1500 miles £13,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIV 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles £10,995

ASTRA ESTATES

2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £9,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles £7,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £7,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £7,995
2006 (56) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 18000 miles £6,495

ZAFIRA MERIVA & AGILA

2008 (08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING , 9000 miles £9,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £8,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA CLUB 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles £8,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £8,995
2010 (59) VAUXHALL MERIVA CLUB 16V MPV AUTO, STEEL BLUE, 3000 miles £8,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, STEEL BLUE, 11000 miles £8,995
2009 (59) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, GOLD, 3000 miles £8,995
2008 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles £7,995
2008 (57) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles £6,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles £6,995

PEUGEOT

2010 (10) PEUGEOT 207 CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles £13,995
2010 (10) PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles £10,995
2010 (10) PEUGEOT 308 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, IRON GREY, 2000 miles £9,995
2009 (09) PEUGEOT 308 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £8,995
2008 (08) PEUGEOT 207 SE PREMIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles £8,995
2007 (07) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £8,995
2008 (08) PEUGEOT 307 SW SE ESTATE AUTO, DIABLO RED, 13000 miles £8,995
2007 (57) PEUGEOT 307 SW SE ESTATE AUTO, RED, 23000 miles £7,495
2007 (57) PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 2000 miles £6,995

MITSUBISHI

2007 (57) MITSUBISHI LANCER ELEGANCE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 19000 miles £6,995

HONDA

2008 (57) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles £17,995
2008 (57) HONDA CR-V ES AUTO 5DR AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £17,995
2007 (07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 24000 miles £16,995
2006 (06) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 26000 miles £11,995
2009 (09) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles £9,995
2008 (58) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £9,495
2008 (08) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles £8,995
2005 (55) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 48000 miles £5,995

MERCEDES

2008 (58) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A170 AVANTGARDE SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles £13,995
2009 (59) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles £13,995
2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles £12,995
2007 (57) MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180K AVANTGARDE SE SALOON AUTO, CUBANITE SILVER, 23000 miles £12,995
2008 (08) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 ELEGANCE SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 12000 miles £11,995
2007 (57) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles £9,995
2007 (57) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 AVANTGARDE SE 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles £9,995

VOLKSWAGEN

2008 (08) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH, GREY, 6000 miles £11,995 + VAT
2008 (08) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, DIAMOND BLACK, 10000 miles £11,995
2008 (08) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles £10,995
2009 (59) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, REFLEX SILVER, 780 miles £9,995
2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF PLUS GT TDI DSG 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, GREY, 47000 miles £9,995
2009 (09) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles £8,995
2008 (58) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH 3DR AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles £8,995
2009 (09) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles £8,995
2008 (08) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 13000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 10000 miles £7,995
2005 (05) VOLKSWAGEN LUPO E 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £5,495

DIESEL AUTOMATICS

2010 (60) VAUXHALL MERIVA SE CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles £15,995
2010 (60) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £15,995
2009 (59) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles £14,995
2009 (59) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles £13,995
2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles £12,995
2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF PLUS GT TDI DSG 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, GREY, 47000 miles £9,995

MORRIS'S MANUAL CARS

2009 (F) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH, WHITE, 3000 miles £9,995
2006 (06) JAGUAR X-TYPE S D TD SALOON, RED, 72000 miles £6,995
2005 (05) TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO T2 VVT-I MPV, SILVER STEEL, 9000 miles £6,495
2006 (56) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles £5,495
2007 (07) KIA PICANTO LS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 17000 miles £4,495
2005 (05) NISSAN ALMERA TINO SE 5DR HATCH, RED, 12000 miles £4,495
2002 (51) VAUXHALL ASTRA COMFORT 16V 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 41000 miles £2,695

SKODA

2008 (58) SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles £7,495

QASHQAI

2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £19,995
2010 (59) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £19,495
2010 (59) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles £18,995
2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £17,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 9000 miles £15,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FIRED IRON, 7000 miles £15,995
2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 11000 miles £15,995
2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 4WD 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, FIRED IRON, 17000 miles £15,995
2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FADED DENIM, 18000 miles £15,995
2008 (58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 12000 miles £15,495
2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 10000 miles £14,995
2007 (57) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 18000 miles £12,995

MINI

2010 (60) MINI COOPER MINI COOPER 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1700 miles £14,995
2006 (06) MINI COOPER S MINI COOPER S 3DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 35000 miles £9,495

FIESTA

2008 (58) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, MOONDUST SILVER, 5000 miles £8,495
2008 (08) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, AMETHYST, 5000 miles £7,995
2008 (08) FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 5000 miles £6,995
2008 (08) FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, OCEANBLUE, 18000 miles £6,495

JAGUAR

2005 (05) JAGUAR X-TYPE S V6 AWD SALOON AUTO 4x4, BLUE, 18000 miles £7,995

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1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Caffe Latte, 33k **£6,995**



07 57 Honda Jazz 1.4 I-DSI SE
1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Blue, 25k **£6995**



05 56 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5DR,
2 OWNERS, S/HISTORY, A/C, GREY 38K
£5495



08 08 FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC CLIMATE 3DR
1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Black, 26k
£6,695



08 57 FORD C-MAX 1.8 TDCI STYLE
1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Silver, T.Diesel, 33k
£7995



08 08 FORD FOCUS 1.8 ZETEC 5DR
1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Black, 34k
£7,495



REDUCED

07 57 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 ACENTA
1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Bluetooth, Black, 32k **£10,995**



07 57 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 Design Auto 5DR
1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Black, 34k
£6,695



09 09 NISSAN NOTE 1.6 TEKNA AUTO
F/Lift, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Sat Nav, 19k
£8495



09 09 NISSAN NOTE 1.6 TEKNA AUTO
F/Lift, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Sat Nav, 19k **£8,495**



REDUCED

07 57 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 ACENTA
1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, CD Changer, Grey, 42k **£9,995**



08 08 FORD FOCUS 1.6 STYLE ESTATE
1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Black, 33k
£6,995



08 08 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE
1 owner, S/H, A/C, E/W, R/C/L, E/M, 24k
£6995



07 57 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SXI 5DR,
1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Black, 5k
£6995



07 57 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 Club 5DR,
2 Owner, S/History, A/C, Silver, 11k
£6295

Gravesend

08 57 Ford Focus 1.6 Style 5DR Auto, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Silver, 20k SOLD

08 08 Ford Focus 1.6 Style Estate, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Black, 33k £6995

05 56 Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5DR, 2 Owners, S/History, A/C, Grey 38k £5495

07 57 Honda Jazz 1.4 I-DSI SE, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Blue, 25k £6995

07 07 Nissan Micra 1.2 Spirita 3DR, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, C/D, E/W, Silver, 27k £4995

07 07 Nissan Note 1.6 SE, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Blue, 24k SOLD

08 08 Nissan Note 1.6 Tekna Auto, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Caffe Latte, 33k £6995

07 57 Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Bluetooth, Black, 32k £10995

08 08 Peugeot 207 1.4 S 5DR, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Front Fogs, Grey, 19k £6495

07 57 Renault Megane 1.6 Dynamique Auto 5DR, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Blue, 20k £4995

08 57 Skoda Fabia 1.4 2 5DR, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Silver, 15k £6195

07 57 Vauxhall Astra 1.3 CDTI Life 5DR, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Blue, T.Diesel, 24K £6495

07 57 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 Design Auto 5DR, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Black, 34k £6695

08 08 Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 Life, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, E/W, R/C/L, E/M, Silver, 36k SOLD

08 08 Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Design 5DR, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Half Leather, 14k SOLD

08 08 Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 Exclusive, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Panacotta, 23k £7495

07 57 Vauxhall Vectra 1.9 CDTI Design Auto 5DR, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Silver, 36k £7995

Shorne

08 57 Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec Estate Auto, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Silver, 25k £7495

08 57 Ford C-Max 1.8 TDCi Style, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Silver, T.Diesel, 33k £7995

08 08 Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi Style, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Silver, T.Diesel, 39k SOLD

07 57 Nissan Micra 1.4 Sport 5DR, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Sports Styling, Silver, 27k SOLD

07 57 Nissan Micra 1.4 Acenta + Auto 5DR F/Lift,1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Red, 23k SOLD

08 08 Nissan Note 1.4 Acenta, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Blue, 20k £6495

09 09 Nissan Note 1.6 Tekna Auto, F/Lift, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Sat Nav, 19k £8495

07 57 Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, CD Changer, Grey, 42k £9995

05 55 Seat Leon 2.0 TFSI Sport, 2 Owner, S/History, A/C, 17" Alloys, Black, 20k SOLD

07 07 Suzuki Jimny 1.3 JLX+ 3DR H/Top, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Leather, Red, 46k £6995

06 06 Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 Life, 2 Owners, S/History, A/C, Blue 54k SOLD

07 57 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 Club 5DR, 2 Owner, S/History, A/C, Silver, 11k £6295

08 08 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 Club Auto 5DR, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Silver, 17k SOLD

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Optional Final Payment (GMFV)	£5,333.75	Optional Final Payment (GMFV)	£3,782.50	Optional Final Payment (GMFV)	£4,224.50
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FOOTBALL

Gills hoping for checkmate as transfer tussle hots up

By Glenn Pearson
glenn.pearson@archant.co.uk

Pictures: ADY KERRY





POSITIVE: Ian Hendon says Gills are hopeful of landing their targets, including Charlie Lee (right)

ASSISTANT boss Ian Hendon has offered supporters a glimmer of hope in an otherwise quiet transfer window with the news Gillingham are in advanced talks with a couple of their targets that if secured would "raise a few eyebrows".

The lack of transfer activity at Priestfield has become a major concern for the club's fans, a situation made worse after having seen Cody McDonald, Adebayo Akinfenwa and Andy Barcham depart during the close season and Kevin Maher and Chris Palmer expected to follow.

Not that manager Andy Hessenthaler has been slow off the mark – Gillingham have expressed interest in several players only to see them sign for rival clubs in League Two, with Wes Thomas the latest having signed for big-spending Crawley Town.

Gills supporters' frustration isn't lost on Hendon, in charge at Priestfield while Hessenthaler's on a two-week holiday, who has assured fans the club are doing all they can to bring players in as they look to build a promotion-winning squad for next season.

"There is a lot of things going on at the moment and we're chasing quite a few players," he said.

"Things take time at this stage of the season, a lot of players are on holiday, agents are trying to do deals for players at one club and then go to another club to get it bettered; that's what they do.

"It's a bit like playing chess at the moment really. We have got our targets and we're quite confident with a couple of those, so we'll just have to wait and see. The wheels are in motion, the season doesn't start until August and we'll have a decent squad by the start of the season.

"I do feel for the supporters, it's a difficult time for them and for the football club because we want to make signings and get it out there so that people know who we have signed because you've got to keep the supporters excited for the start of the season. It's not a case of us hiding anything, it's just a case of not making other clubs aware of the targets that we are chasing.

"I'm sure they understand that.

"When our signings are released to the Press I'm sure there will be a few raised eyebrows and it will set us up for the coming season."

Gillingham left it late in signing Akinfenwa and Matt Lawrence last year, with the pair joining late on in pre-season and Hendon expects it to be a similar experience this time round.

"I'm pretty sure that it will do, but who knows?" he said.

"It could be that in two weeks all our players come back and say they want to sign, that would be the ideal scenario as you would then have them right the way through pre-season, but I'm sure if players do come in late they will fit into the jigsaw puzzle and whatever happens, they will strengthen us.

"Certain things are in advanced stages and some are pretty fresh, but a lot of work is going on. We have looked across the board, we know what we want and we have our targets and are positive about them.

"The chairman is aware of the players we are after and what the manager wants and I've got to say that he has been great with us. I've been at football clubs in the past where chairmen have tried to obstruct you, but the chairman here is trying to help in every possible way."

Charlie Lee and Chris Whelpdale are two players Hessenthaler is keen on signing, after the midfield duo impressed during a month's loan at Priestfield last season.

Gillingham, however, are likely to face competition from several other clubs in League Two and League One after the pair helped Peterborough to promotion through the play-offs, and Hendon said persuading them to sign would represent a major fillip for the club.

"Those two did great for us, but there is going to be a lot of competition for both those lads," he said. "There is an interest from us and from a lot of clubs, so if we did manage to get them it would be a real coup for Gillingham."

GYMNASTICS

Picture: HELEN COOPER



PICKED: Courtney Tulloch is in the GB squad

Tulloch heading to Turkey after Team GB call-up

MAIDSTONE gymnast Courtney Tulloch has been selected to represent Great Britain in next month's European Youth Olympic Festival.

The 15-year-old, based at Pegasus Gymnastics Club in Bearsted, will test himself against the Continent's best young athletes at the competition in Trabzon, Turkey, which runs from July 23-29.

Tulloch is no stranger to the international scene, having become a regular member of the Team GB set-up. He was also part of the England team which claimed bronze at the World School Games in Qatar in 2009.

In the meantime, though, he will be looking to defend his title on the rings at next weekend's Pegasus Open. Tulloch was edged into overall second place at the Maidstone Leisure Centre a year ago and he now has the chance to go one better at his home event, the largest club-run gymnastics competition in the country.

Ionut Trandaburu, the event organiser, said: "This year we've got more clubs represented, but the number of gymnasts is less because the standard has been raised to a higher level.

"Most competitions are based on all-round winners, but ours rewards every gymnast who's a specialist on one piece of apparatus."

The event starts with the boys' development open on Friday before the men and women compete on Saturday and Sunday respectively.

COUNTDOWN TO THE OPEN

32 DAYS: Royal St George's vanished from The Open rota for 32 years after hosting the 1948 event. When it returned in 1981, Bill Rogers won by four shots

THE 10 international qualifying places available for The Open at Sandwich have been decided following last week's 36-hole event at Sunningdale's Old Course.

First to book his place at Royal St George's was Graeme Storm, who won the tournament with rounds of 65 and 62, giving him a total of 127, 12 under par.

The 33-year-old Hartlepudlian finished three shots clear of his closest challenger, the 2007 French Open winner Alexander Noren from Sweden.

Storm's progress was, appropriately, temporarily halted by a 90-minute delay for heavy rain, though it worked to his advantage.

"The delay certainly helped me because when I teed off, the rain had stopped and the conditions were perfect," he said. "It's fantastic to qualify. I've not played St George's since the Amateur Championship was there in 1997, so it will be nice to go back."

Noren, the winner of Sunday's Wales Open at Celtic Manor, shot 66 and 64 for a 130 to finish second and cement a place at Sandwich.

"I came here on a great high, but I said to my caddie that I needed to just focus for one more day and then we could celebrate the win," he said. "I was always going to be happy whatever happened, but now I can really enjoy all of this."

France's Thomas Levet, who was joint runner-up in the 2002 Open at Muirfield, came third.

The other qualifiers were Peter Whiteford, Gary Boyd, Alejandro Canizares, Gregory Bourdy, Richard McEvoy, Kenneth Ferrie and George Coetzee, who won a dramatic five-man play-off for the final place.



THROUGH: Thomas Levet will play at The Open after claiming one of 10 places through qualifying

TOURING CARS



Pictures: NICK DUNGAN



DRAMA: Mat Jackson (left) is still in contention for the championship but Tony Gilham (right) had a difficult weekend at Oulton Park

Jackson pulls it out the bag to keep his title dreams alive

By Steve Tervet
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DREAMS of lifting the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) remain intact for Mat Jackson and Motorbase Performance despite a nightmare start to the latest round of the series at Oulton Park.

Jackson travelled north second in the championship and eager to apply further pressure on front-runner Matt Neal, but his weekend looked to be over as quickly as it had begun after the worst qualifying session imaginable.

Airwaves Racing, the team representing Wrotham-based Motorbase in the BTCC, looked on in horror as Jackson's car skidded on oil deposited by his team-mate Liam Griffin, before crashing off the track and sustaining heavy front-end damage.

Having qualified 10th, Jackson failed to finish the first race and the early exit meant he started second-last for race two. Despite a shunt from Paul O'Neill, he managed to make up 12 positions and was then given a further boost when Honda team-mates Matt Neal and Gordon Shedden both crashed out, boosting Jackson up into the points in ninth place.

Finally, the team's luck changed when Jackson was drawn at the front of the reverse grid for race three. Holding off the stern challenge of Shedden's Honda Civic, he chalked up his second race win of the season, keeping him within seven points of Neal in the drivers' championship.

"It was a full on weekend of highs and lows," Jackson reflected. "Saturday's qualifying session was really unfortunate with what happened with Liam's car and then us collecting damage in the same incident.

"It was disappointing not to finish and to have to start at the back of the grid for race two. At that point, you really know that you're having a bad weekend, but a ninth-placed result gave us the chance of the reverse grid for race three. I couldn't believe it when the reverse grid went in our favour, after the luck we'd had. It was fantastic to capitalise on our good fortune and for the Focus to put in such a convincing win."

Dartford's Tony Gilham endured a difficult weekend in Cheshire, spinning out of contention in race one and then crashing during race two. However, the Triple Eight team rebuilt his Vauxhall Vectra in time for Gilham to charge from the back of the grid through to a 12th-placed finish in Sunday's third race.

Meanwhile, an extraordinary afternoon for the championship also saw Tom Onslow-Cole quit the AmD Milltek Racing team just 15 minutes before race three. Team principal Shaun Hollamby, from Pembury, will now drive the VW Golf in the next round at Yorkshire's Croft circuit next weekend but is in talks with other drivers about completing the season.

Onslow-Cole has since rejoined Team Aon.

WORLD SUPERBIKES

Inconsistent Camier hoping for spot of luck in San Marino

LEON Camier sounded both weary and wary ahead of this weekend's World Superbike Championship meeting at Misano Adriatico in San Marino.

The Ashford rider goes into the latest round of the championship in seventh place in the overall standings, but a tough start to the season seems to have taken the edge off his confidence.

"It's a bad excuse, but we could really do with some luck," the Aprilia rider said. "The season's not been particularly great to be honest, we've had ups and downs and we've probably not been as consistent as we'd like to be."

His luck was certainly out when he picked up glandular fever at the start of the campaign and having recovered from that, he has since been bedevilled by a series of mechanical mishaps.

"Since I've come back to fitness by the second or third race that hasn't been a problem, but there have been a lot of other issues with the bike that have taken the weekend away from me," he said. "We just need a bit of luck.

"We don't always know what's gone wrong and it is a bad excuse because what is luck? But we can't really explain what's gone wrong and sometimes it's taken the entire weekend to figure it out and I just haven't had the laps."

At his last race, in Utah, Camier felt he should have been on the podium twice after posting the quickest times in qualifying, but an error cost him third place in the first race.

The 24-year-old was runner-up in the second, his best performance of the 2011 campaign, but this hasn't done much to boost his confidence ahead of his San Marino trip.

"It's never been a great track for me to be honest, I've just had a lot of problems there and I don't find it a good, fast track," he admitted.

Both races take place on Sunday.

Picture: APRILIA



LUCK: Kent's Leon Camier is looking for a solid points haul from this weekend as the World Superbikes head to San Marino

TOURING CARS WITH TIM HARVEY



Touring car legend Tim Harvey has teamed up with Archant KOS Media this season to bring you a weekly column as the class of 2011 do battle up and down the country. Harvey, who was brought up in Sevenoaks and schooled in Tonbridge, more recently raced in the Porsche Carrera Cup for Wrotham team Motorbase Performance. He shares his thoughts, as an ITV commentator, on the British Touring Car Championship, and discusses the series' big issues.

'Oulton Park had just about it all'

WITHOUT doubt, last weekend's action at Oulton Park was the most dramatic of this season's British Touring Championship (BTCC) so far.

We had wet races, team-mates crashing into each other on the last lap, and an outburst from Jason Plato – we had just about everything you could expect from this championship.

It was quite amazing to watch from the commentary box as Honda team-mates Gordon Shedden and Matt Neal came round the final corner in race two, leading by some distance, only to crash and hand victory to Jason Plato, who had been sitting third. Quite simply, it must top the list for all-time BTCC faux-pas. I've seen team-mates crash into each other before, but not when they've been leading the race going into the last corner.

It was absolutely unbelievable and I don't know what Neal was thinking. I admire him racing to the death against his own team-mate, but on the other hand he'd already locked up his brakes earlier in the race and run into Shedden, so he shouldn't really have been that confident on the brakes and attempted to pass his own team-mate when they were both set for an excellent points haul. It was a genuine attempt to pass, but it was completely rash. If it had been anyone other than his team-mate, he'd probably have been hauled in by the clerk of the course.

Plato may have won the race but he certainly wasn't happy afterwards and I was massively surprised by his reaction.

I expected him to get out and laugh all the way to the podium at Honda's misfortune and his gain. Instead, he got out of the car very highly-charged, shouting his mouth off about the regulations regarding the turbo-charged cars and most people felt it was inappropriate.

Of course, Plato has his opinion, which is shared by others, but he's got to get it in balance. A bit of gamesmanship is all part and parcel of touring car racing, whatever the rules and regulations, but Plato's getting so completely wrapped up in it, he's showing a weakness. It's going to be an issue that dominates the season and the arguments will continue.

Mat Jackson's win in the third race for Airwaves Racing really was an impressive drive. He beat Shedden in a Honda with no ballast on board. Shedden would have been fired up to score maximum points, but he couldn't lay a finger on Jackson.

CRICKET

Injury jinx strikes again as Coles and van Jaarsveld face spell on sidelines

By Glenn Pearson
glenn.pearson@archant.co.uk

KENT'S injury-hit squad suffered a double blow this week with Matt Coles and Martin van Jaarsveld now crocked and facing a race against time to be fit for the majority of the Friends Life t20.

The duo's absence will be tempered by the arrival of overseas stars Charl Langeveldt and Wahab Riaz, but of concern will be the number of players to have suffered injuries so far this summer.

The majority of the squad have spent time on the sidelines and Coles' injury is the third time the quick bowler has been out of action in the first two months of the season.

Robbie Joseph (quad), Simon Cook and Joe Denly (both thumb), Ashley Shaw (shins), Azhar Mahmood (hip and knee) and Alex Blake (hamstring) have all spent more than two weeks out of the side with their respective injuries, while Darren Stevens (shoulder, ankle) and Rob Key (hand) have played through the pain barrier due to Kent's skeleton-thin squad.

Coles' absence will be a major blow as it comes at a time when the 21-year-old had found some form in recording career-best figures of 5 for 77 in Kent's LV= County Championship win against Leicestershire, and was the county's stand-out bowler in both Twenty20 games at Tunbridge Wells last week.

The Maidstone-born seamer could be out for as long as four weeks after suffering a stress-related metatarsal injury bowling at the Nevill Ground.

The injury comes after Coles missed the start of the season with a knee injury, which flared up again after he made a brief return against Northamptonshire at the County Ground in April.

It's hoped that Coles could make a return from his current injury ahead of schedule though, after it was diagnosed early, which could see him back in two weeks.

Nimmo Reid, Kent's director of physiotherapy, said: "Matt has had an MRI scan confirming a stress reaction in the second metatarsal of his left foot. While this injury is obviously very frustrating for Matt, it has been picked up early and therefore he should be back in two weeks.

"During this time he will be working closely with Max Ganderton, Pete Kelly and myself."

While Coles faces a race against time to be fit for Kent's remaining Twenty20 games, the club have targeted the next championship game, against Middlesex at Lord's on June 19, for van Jaarsveld's return.

The South African suffered a broken right index finger during fielding practice that's likely to see him out for up to two weeks. The 36-year-old, who has scored 450 runs in the championship so far this season at an average of 40, is a key member of Kent's four-day side and the club will be keen their vice-captain is available when the championship resumes later in the month.

Meanwhile, Kent's chief executive, Jamie Clifford says the St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury will be ready for its first game under the new floodlights on June 18.

Redevelopment work as part of the club's £8.2 million project has been ongoing during games at the start of this season, but that, on the ground at least, will stop in a week's time when the final buildings are completed.

Clifford said: "We are on course for the Les Ames Stand and the pavilion to reopen for that first floodlit game back in the middle of June. We are on target, but there's still a lot more to do in the next week or so."

KENT'S MISSING PLAYERS



INJURED	INJURY	MISSING
Matt Coles	Knee	4 weeks total
Ashley Shaw	Shins	3 weeks
Robbie Joseph	Quad	3 weeks in total
Azhar Mahmood	Hip, knee	One week
Dewald Nel	Back	4 weeks
Joe Denly	Broken thumb	3 weeks
Simon Cook	Broken thumb	5 weeks
Alex Blake	Hamstring	3 weeks
Martin van Jaarsveld	Broken finger	Up to 2 weeks
Matt Coles	Foot	2-4 weeks
Darren Stevens	Shoulder	No bowling for 6 weeks

> **While this injury is frustrating for Matt, it has been picked up early and he should be back in four**
>
> **NIMMO REID,** KENT PHYSIO

All pictures: ADY KERRY



OUT: Matt Coles (above) and Martin van Jaarsveld (left) are the latest casualties in an injury-hit start to the season for Kent

CRICKET

Decision to sign two overseas won't break bank, say Kent

CHAIRMAN George Kennedy has admitted that Kent's decision to sign two overseas players was taken as much to attract crowds for the Spitfires' Friends Life t20 games as it was to help improve results on the pitch.

With the county due back at St Lawrence on June 18 for the club's first Twenty20 game under their new floodlights, there were concerns about attendances for that game and the remaining t20 campaign, if Kent's chances in the competition were already effectively over. With several players injured or unavailable and the Spitfires due to face sides that had already strengthened for t20 with their own overseas players, the club took the decision to sign South African Charl Langeveldt and Pakistan international Wahab Riaz.

Kennedy, who is sponsoring Langeveldt's stay at Kent for t20 by paying for his accomodation, said the club had to be realistic after a difficult start to a season that has been blighted by injuries to key players.

He said: "Needs must. Results were not as good as we had hoped for and we lost Dewald Nel, which helped free up a bit of cash. We have been pretty careful with the money on all other aspects. I think we have to be realistic as well and say if we want people to really follow the club and watch us we have to have the right players on the pitch as well. That's equally important.

"It's well within the monies we have budgeted. On every other aspect of the club we are cutting corners and saving as much as we can and putting on things to raise money as well. Commercially it's going quite well and I'm encouraged by that."

Elsewhere at the club, a meeting has been scheduled for June 27 to discuss the future of several players out of contract at the end of this season.



IN: Wahab Riaz signed for Kent

CRICKET

Future of Tunbridge Wells as t20 host hangs in the balance

ANOTHER successful Tunbridge Wells Festival came to a close last Sunday with more than 12,000 Kent supporters watching three fixtures at the picture-perfect Nevill Ground.

Cricket supporters in the west of the county showed again why they cannot be ignored, with a capacity crowd of 5,000 turning out for last Friday's nine-wicket defeat against Somerset. More than 4,000 tickets were also sold for Sunday's 20-run reverse against the Hampshire Royals – although persistent rain meant only about 2,000 stayed on to watch the five-over slog at the end following a three-hour delay.

Yet, hosting 20-over cricket at the Nevill Ground is under serious threat due a reduced Twenty20 programme next year and Kent chief executive, Jamie Clifford, admitted the club have a difficult decision to make next year.

He said: "Next year we see a reduction in Twenty20 games and what I wanted the west of the county to show the club was they wanted Twenty20 here and they've shown in their numbers they want this type of cricket in this part of the county.

"We have a difficult decision with a reduced programme and well done to the folk of west Kent for making that decision very difficult for us."



PACKED: Crowds flocked for Twenty20

DOVER ATHLETIC

Gills talk wide of the mark, insists free agent Flitney

EXCLUSIVE by Steve Tervet

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ROSS Flitney admits he is surprised Gillingham have shown no interest in signing him following his decision to walk away from Dover Athletic.

The goalkeeper has been in talks with several clubs after rejecting the offer of a new contract at Crabble, but quashed rumours linking him with a move to Priestfield and a reunion with Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler.

Brought to Dover by Hessenthaler in January, 2010, Flitney established himself as the Whites first-choice stopper and kept the jersey when Martin Hayes took over last summer. However, the stopper revealed the offer to stay with the club next season had simply not been lucrative enough to justify the two-hour commute from his Stevenage home to training and games.

"From my point of view, the offer I had from Dover wasn't right," he said. "I needed more with the travelling I was doing. It wasn't in my mind at all to leave.

"I had a figure in my head which I'd have been happy to accept, but it wasn't met and that really pushed the issue towards me not being able to stay. I love the club and I wasn't asking for any more than I'd been on for the last 18 months, but they couldn't meet it for X, Y and Z reasons.

"I'm talking to a few different clubs, trying to keep my options open for the minute. I've not spoken to Gillingham at all, though. I know Lance [Cronin] and the Gills lot and part of me thought I would have had a call from Andy, but I've had no contact with them."

Flitney, 27, has previous Football League experience with Barnet, Brighton & Hove Albion and Doncaster Rovers.

"Although eager to return to the professional game one day, the prospect of playing Conference football closer to home next season is one he's willing to entertain, having enjoyed his time at Crabble under both Hessenthaler and Hayes.

He said: "I've got no problems with Martin Hayes, we got on really well, and it was the same with [assistant] Paul Joynes. Martin has his own way of dealing with contracts, which is different to how Andy did it.

"I'm sad not to be part of it because I made good friends there and I can't fault anything at the club. The deal I was offered wasn't right for me, but I wouldn't rule out going back in the future.

"Getting to training and games was a 300-mile round-trip. Over the course of the season, I missed two or three sessions because I was stuck in bad traffic and sometimes I'd be sitting in the car for four hours before training. I can't do that any more.

"Ever since I got released by Barnet, I've always said my aim was to play League football again. Playing full-time, there's more pressure, bigger teams, bigger rewards and bigger disappointments. If the opportunity came to get back in, I'd love to go for it.

"There's no reason why I couldn't go full-time again. I've never had another job other than playing football and even in the last 18 months, it's all I was ever doing. There was some coaching now and again but football's my living. On the other hand, being part-time, being in non-league, there are still tough leagues as we found out last year when we came up slightly short."

Lee Hook, Flitney's former deputy, has committed himself to Dover for another season, although Hayes is actively searching to replace his outgoing stopper. As the summer transfer window kicks into top gear, Flitney is now waiting patiently for the phone to ring.

"I've never contacted anyone, not since I've been playing," he said. "It's been nice because there's always been offers and interest throughout my career. It's lovely to be wanted, rather than go searching, but maybe I'll come unstuck this summer, maybe I'll have to search."

Picture: SIMON HARRIS



OFF: Ross Flitney has left Dover after rejecting a contract offer

TRANSFER TALK...

A SUMMER of frenetic transfer activity showed no signs of slowing up this week, with a host of players signing deals well in advance of the new season.

Kent's Conference South clubs were especially busy, with defender **Adam Green** accepting **Dartford's** offer to leave Hayes & Yeading, dropping down a division in the process.

Dover Athletic raided Rushden & Diamonds for the second time in three weeks as midfielder **Matt Johnson** followed in the footsteps of Shane Huke by penning a one-year contract at Crabble.

Moving up the non-league pyramid is full-back **Harrison Dunk**, who has left **Bromley** to sign a two-year deal with Cambridge United.

Carshalton Athletic appear to have won the race to sign prolific **Cray Wanderers** striker **Laurent Hamici**, while **Ian Pulman** is heading from **Whitstable Town** to Eastbourne Borough.

Jamie Coyle is back at **Sittingbourne** as a player-coach after a season with **Welling**, and **Dane Luchford** looks likely to leave **Faversham** for Horsham, where his brother Justin is now manager.

Chatham Town have signed **Jon Pilbeam** from Kent League side **Tunbridge Wells**.

TONBRIDGE ANGELS

Piper on his way out of Longmead but unlikely to move to Dover or Dartford

TONBRIDGE Angels look set to lose Chris Piper this summer, but the midfielder is unlikely to move to another Kent club.

Having joined Tonbridge last October, Piper became an integral part of Tommy Warrilow's side and missed only one game as the Angels went up via the Ryman Premier Division play-offs.

The promotion was Piper's second in as many seasons, having skippered Croydon to the Ryman Division One South title 12 months earlier. His signature had already been coveted elsewhere, even before Warrilow this week announced he had virtually given up hope of hanging onto Piper ahead of the Angels' debut Conference South campaign.

"I don't think I can afford Pipes this year," he said. "I've got to be realistic, he's got a young family and he's been offered fantastic deals elsewhere. He's got to think of his family and what's best for him.

"These things happen and I've tried my best, but I've resigned myself to losing him.

"We are in a different ballpark now and we can't get caught up in what is going on around us. Chris loves this club, he wants to stay, but needs must and we can't start robbing Peter to pay Paul."

With Jon Wallis having left Dover Athletic to join Dartford last month, Piper had been touted as a possible replacament at Crabble.

However, Warrilow questioned whether he would consider making the commute from his Bermondsey home to the south-east coast and felt a move to join the Darts was equally unlikely.

"I don't think that's the case," he said. "It's not impossible but the two main clubs [interested in Piper] are in our league and they're closer to his home."

Picture: DAVE COULDRIDGE



MOVE: Chris Piper is leaving Tonbridge Angels

BROMLEY

Hotseat vacant as Bird flies the nest

BROMLEY are looking for their third manager in six months after Hayden Bird resigned from the top job at Hayes Lane this week.

Bird joined the Lillywhites as part of Mark Goldberg's backroom staff in January, 2010. When a row over player selection prompted Goldberg to quit a year later, Bird stepped up to take charge of first-team affairs.

However, he failed to resucitate Bromley's flagging play-off push, which had already begun to dip dramatically under Goldberg.

Having topped Conference South in the early weeks of the season, they fell out of the promotion picture completely, with Bird gaining only five wins from his 20 league games as manager.

A club statement said: "The board are in discussions with a couple of parties interested in investing in the club and will not be making an immediate decision on Hayden's replacement."

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